

KIRKMAN • OTTLEY • CRABTREE

# INVINCIBLE™



VOLUME NINE

## OUT OF THIS WORLD





**image**® COMICS PRESENTS

# INVINCIBLE™

## OUT OF THIS WORLD



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**image**®





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# CHAPTER ONE



Ryan



NO, SO FAR EVERYTHING IS GOING WELL. NOTHING'S HAPPENED-- NOT EVEN A MINOR SET BACK. LAST TIME I TALKED TO THE ASTRONAUTS, AT LEAST--THINGS WERE RUNNING SMOOTHLY AND RIGHT ON SCHEDULE.

WELL, JUST KEEP AN EYE ON THEM. THIS IS A DANGEROUS MISSION--THAT'S WHY YOU'RE THERE.

I KNOW WHY I'M HERE. IF THEY LOSE CONTAINMENT--I HELP THE ASTRONAUTS INTO THE ESCAPE POD AND ZIP THEM BACK TO EARTH BEFORE THEY RUN OUT OF AIR. IT'S SIMPLE, CECIL-- THIS IS EASY.

I AM STANDING.

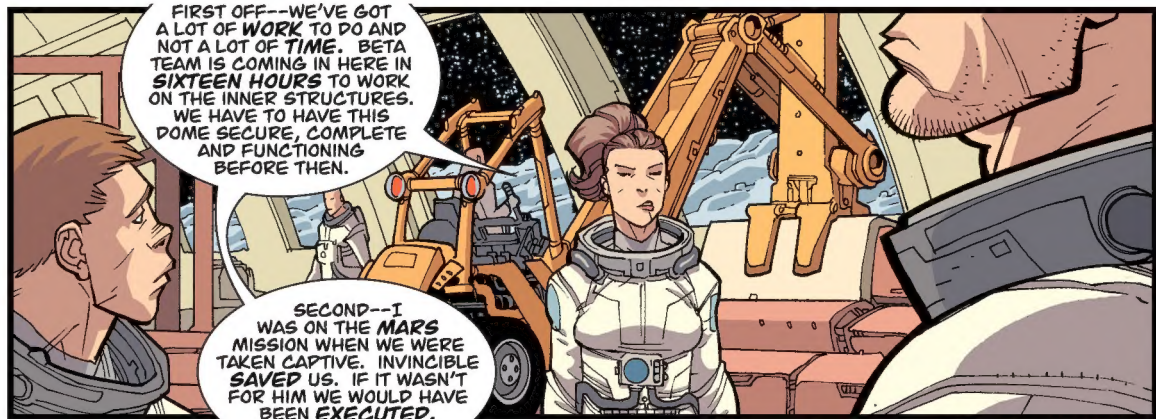
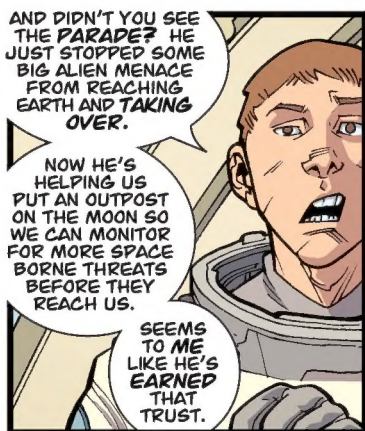
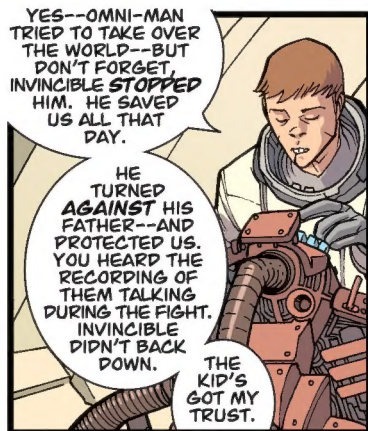
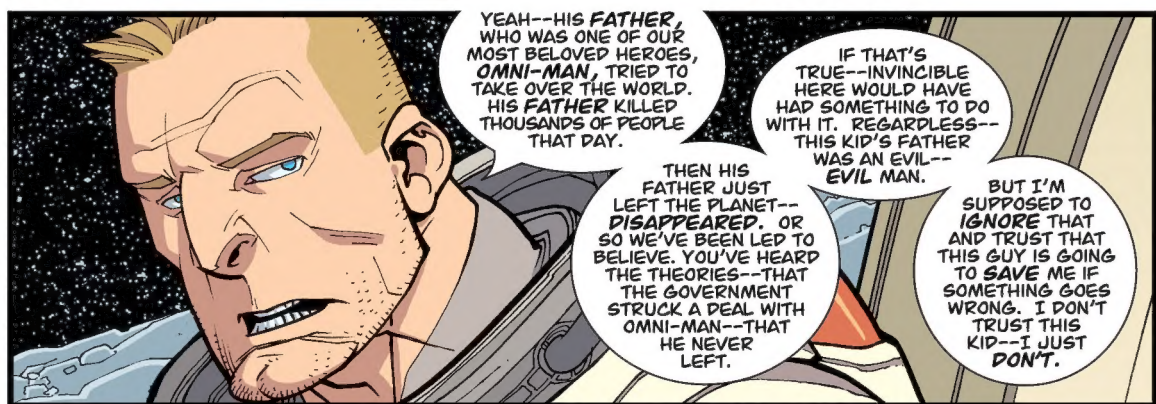
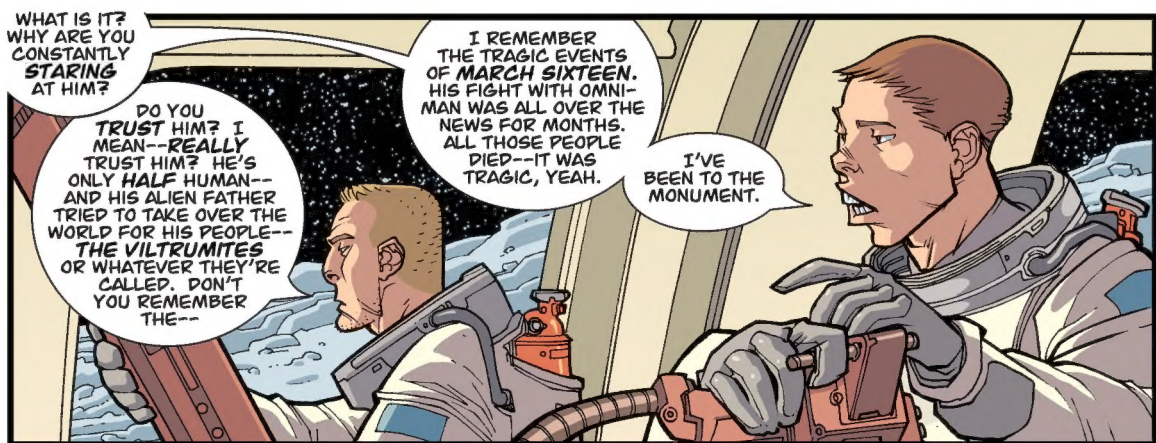
FINE, FINE, FINE.

I CAN SEE YOU, MARK. I'M LOOKING RIGHT AT YOU.

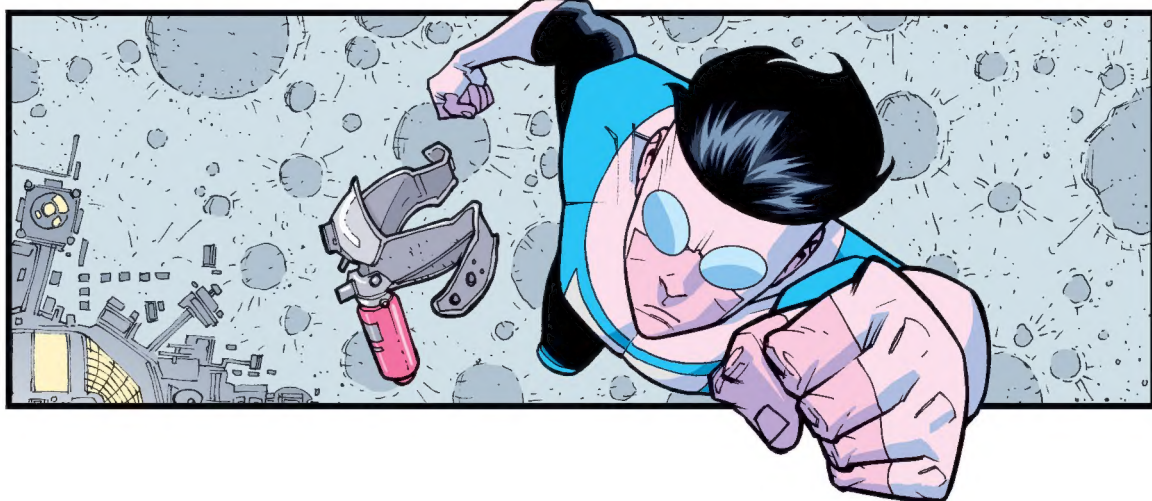
EASY-- RIGHT. JUST KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN, WHO KNOWS WHAT'S OUT THERE-- AND FOR GOD'S SAKE-- AT LEAST STAND UP AND ACT LIKE YOU'RE READY TO SAVE THEM IF SOMETHING DOES GO WRONG.







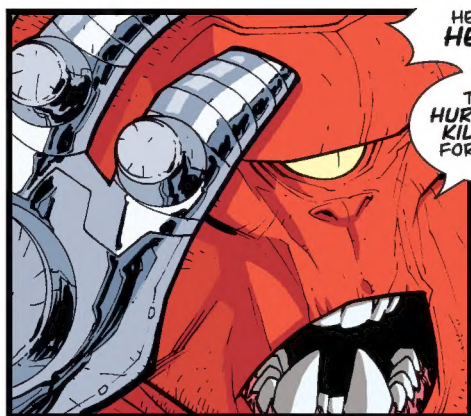












HEY--  
HEY!!

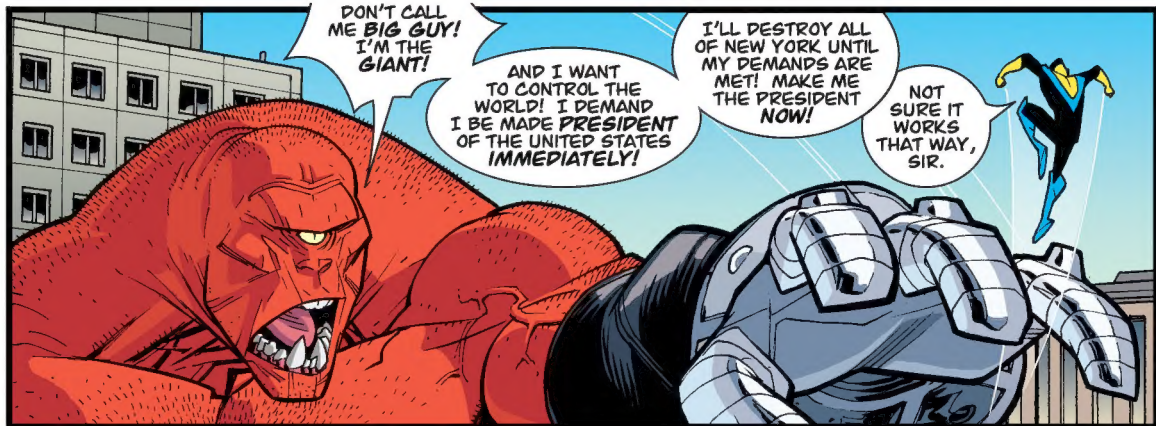
THAT  
HURT! I'LL  
KILL YOU  
FOR THAT!



FORGIVE ME IF  
I DON'T STAND  
STILL TO PROVIDE  
YOU THE  
OPPORTUNITY.

ANYWAY--  
WHAT GIVES,  
BIG GUY?!  
WHERE'VE YOU  
BEEN HIDING  
AND WHAT IS  
IT YOU'RE  
AFTER?!

YOU'RE  
CAUSING ALL  
KINDS OF  
TROUBLE!



DON'T CALL  
ME **BIG GUY!**  
I'M THE  
**GIANT!**

AND I WANT  
TO CONTROL THE  
WORLD! I DEMAND  
I BE MADE **PRESIDENT**  
OF THE UNITED STATES  
**IMMEDIATELY!**

I'LL DESTROY ALL  
OF NEW YORK UNTIL  
MY DEMANDS ARE  
MET! MAKE ME  
THE **PRESIDENT**  
**NOW!**

NOT  
SURE IT  
WORKS  
THAT WAY,  
SIR.



I **PROMISE** THAT  
IF YOU DESTROY ALL  
OF NEW YORK THE  
ONLY THING WE'LL  
BE MAKING YOU  
IS **DEAD!**

HE'S  
NOT KIDDING--  
I SUGGEST  
A **HASTY**  
**SURRENDER.**



THIS GUY'S  
OBVIOUSLY NOT  
ALL HERE, FOLKS--  
I DON'T THINK  
KILLING HIM  
IS--

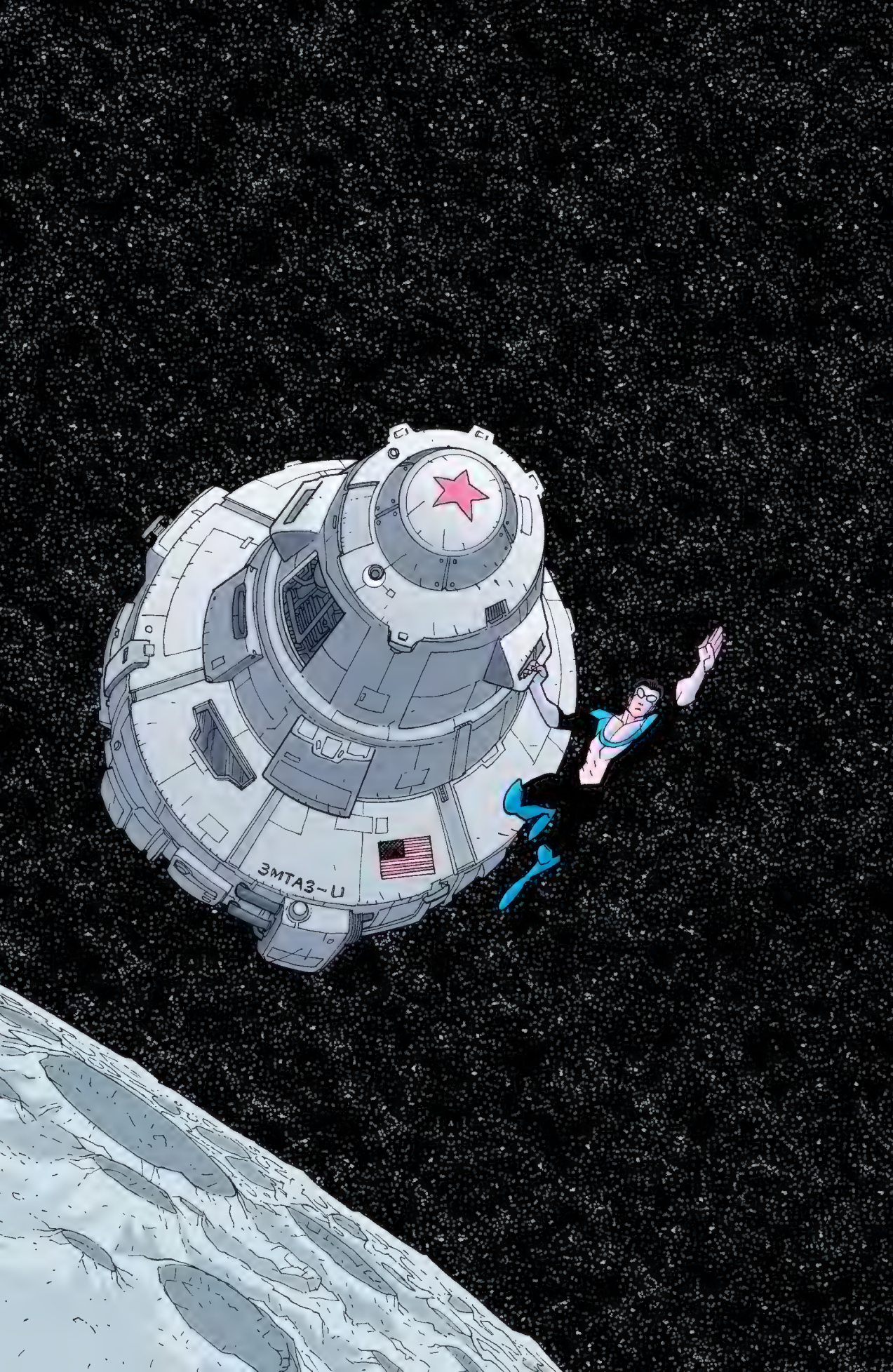
LET THE  
GUARDIANS  
WRAP THIS  
ONE UP, MARK--  
I NEED YOU  
IN **SPACE**--  
**QUICK!**



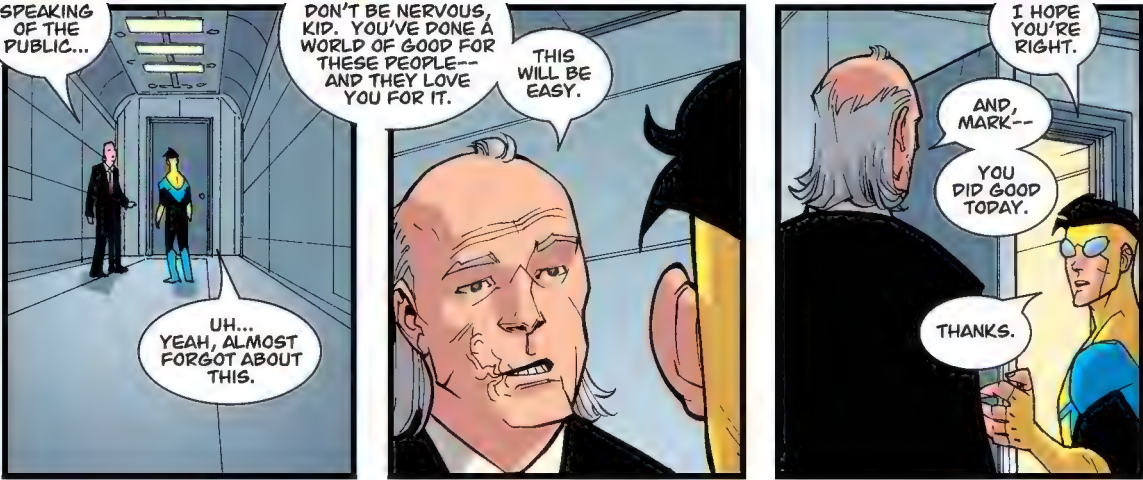
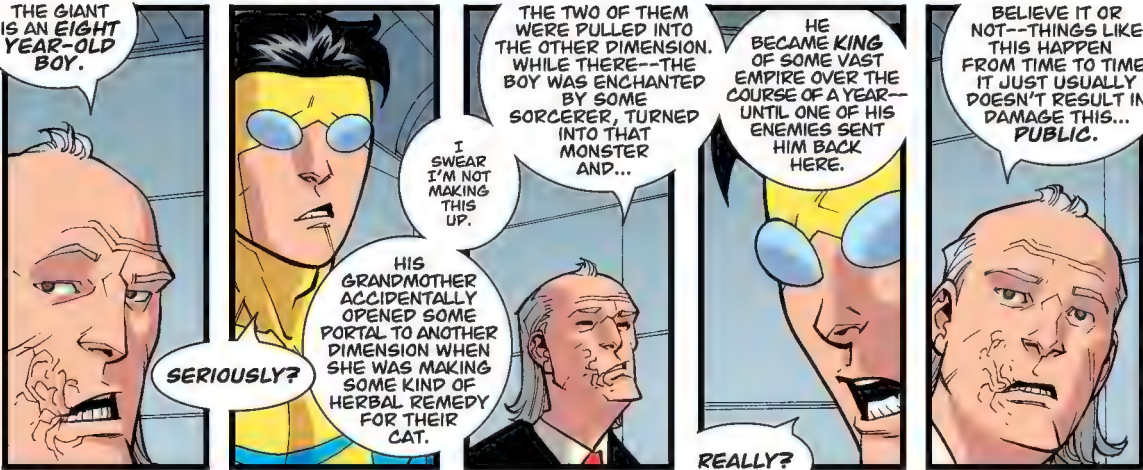
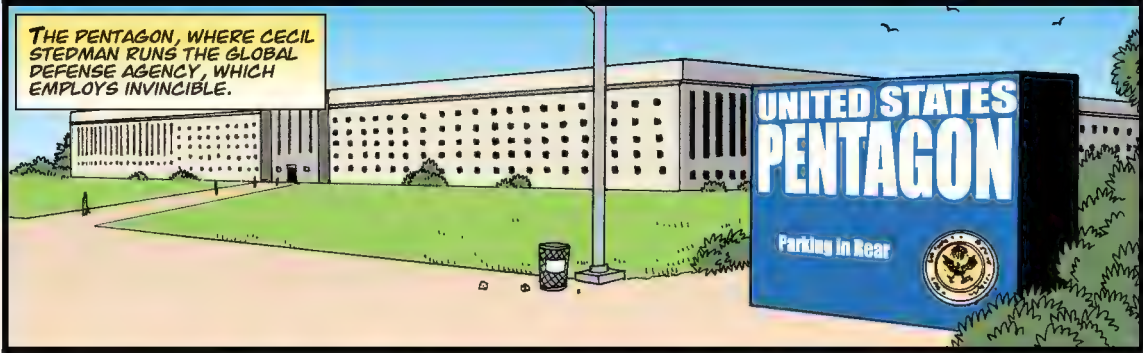
**SPACE?**  
WHAT  
FOR?

OH--OH,  
YEAH!

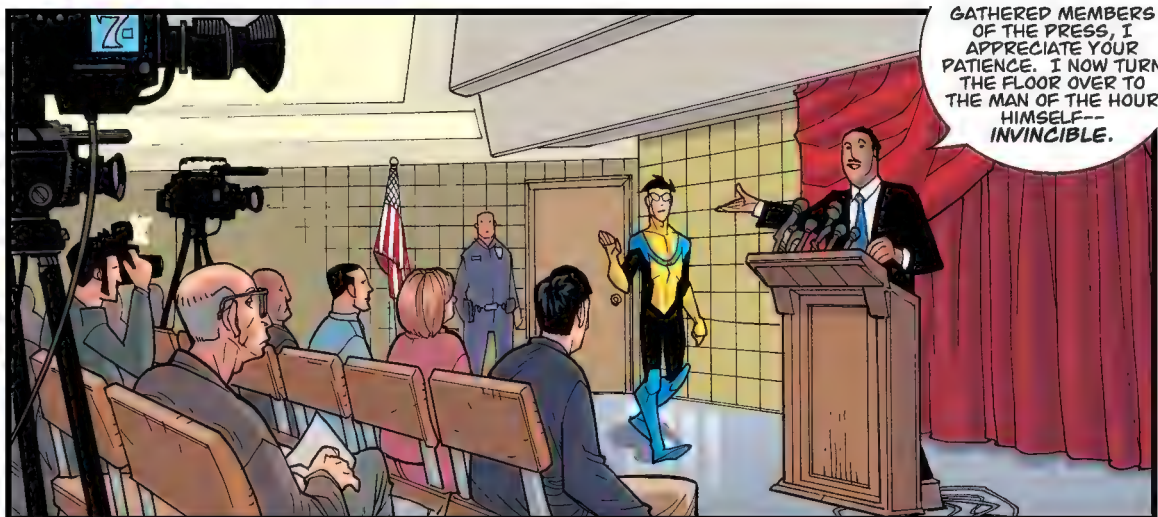












GATHERED MEMBERS OF THE PRESS, I APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE. I NOW TURN THE FLOOR OVER TO THE MAN OF THE HOUR HIMSELF-- INVINCIBLE.



YOU'VE BEEN VERY DILIGENT IN YOUR WORK OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS, THE INVASION FROM MARS, SAVING THESE ASTRONAUTS TODAY...

IS THERE ANY REASON FOR YOUR INCREASED PUBLIC PROFILE?



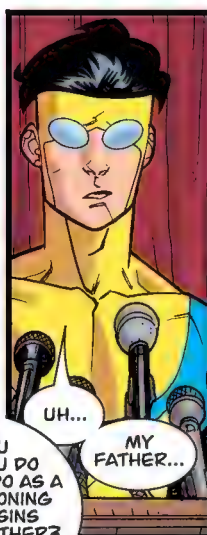
NOT REALLY, NO. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN HELPING OUT--DOING MY PART. I GUESS WHAT I'VE BEEN DOING LATELY IS A BIT MORE NEWS-WORTHY?

I DON'T REALLY KNOW.



YOUR FATHER, OMNI-MAN, TRIED TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD AND ENSLAVE US ALL-- YOU OPPOSED HIM.

DO YOU THINK YOU DO WHAT YOU DO AS A WAY OF ATONING FOR THE SINS OF YOUR FATHER?



UH...

MY FATHER...



I'M WELL AWARE OF THE HORRIFIC ACTIONS OF MY FATHER. I KNOW WHAT HIS PLANS FOR THIS PLANET WERE-- AND I STOPPED HIM FROM CARRYING THEM OUT.

THE EVENTS OF THAT DAY ARE SOMETHING THAT ARE ALWAYS ON MY MIND. IT'S NOT SOMETHING I'LL EVER FORGET AND IT DOES GUIDE MY ACTIONS TO A CERTAIN EXTENT.

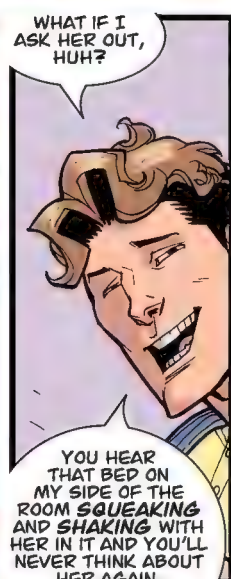
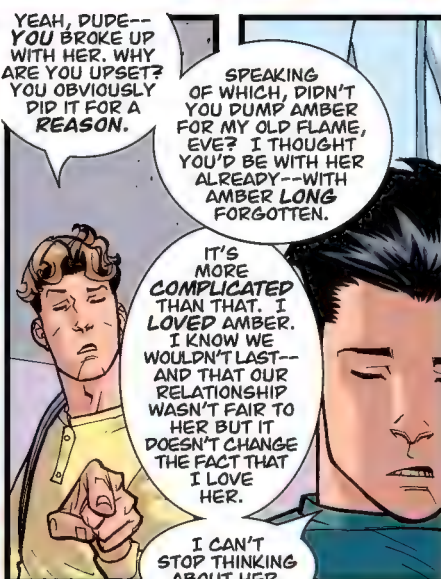
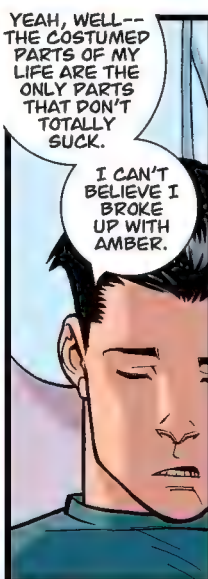
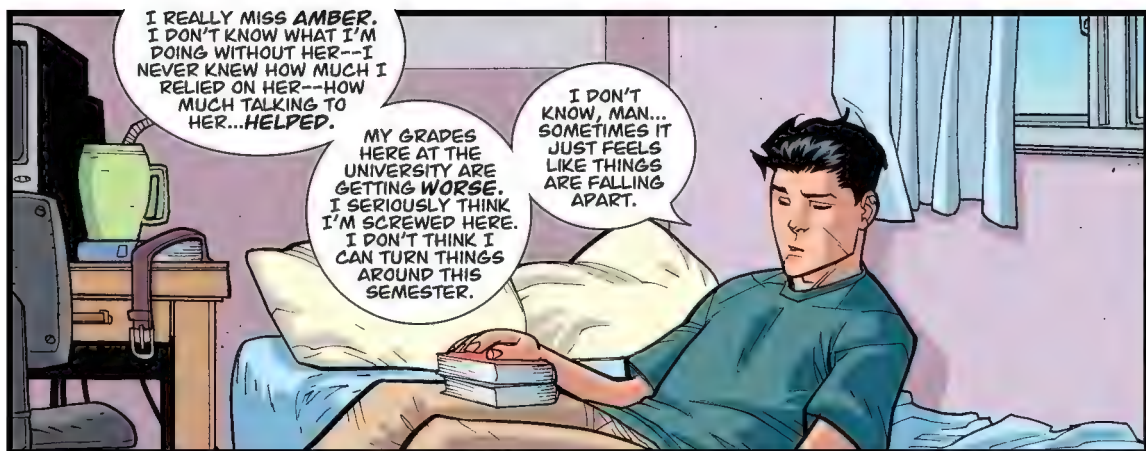
BUT I DO WHAT I DO--NOT AS AN APOLOGY TO THE HUMAN RACE-- OR TO TRY AND ERASE THE ACTIONS OF MY FATHER. I HELP PEOPLE BECAUSE I WANT TO-- BECAUSE I BELIEVE THAT IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO.

I'M ONLY TRYING TO DO WHAT'S RIGHT.











LATER.

YOU AM  
BIG HERO.  
OCTOBOSS SEE  
YOU IN TELEVISION.  
ME AM NOT CARE  
HOW LARGE HERO  
BE. YOU IS FOOL  
AM FACE  
OCTOBOSS.

ME DID  
NOT INSTIGATE  
FIGHT. I MINDING  
AM OWN BUSINESS--  
KILLING MANY  
ENEMIES. NOT YOU--  
YOU HAVE NO  
REASON AT  
ATTACK.

YOU  
SOUND  
TOTALLY  
RETARDED.

ME COME HERE FROM  
OTHER WORLD! BEGINNING  
AM MISUNDERSTOOD--  
SHOUT BUT NOT HEARD. ME  
TAKE TIME OFF TO LEARN  
LANGUAGE OF ENEMY.  
ME PLACE EFFORT  
AM TASK.

ALL  
GET I BE  
RIDICULE?!

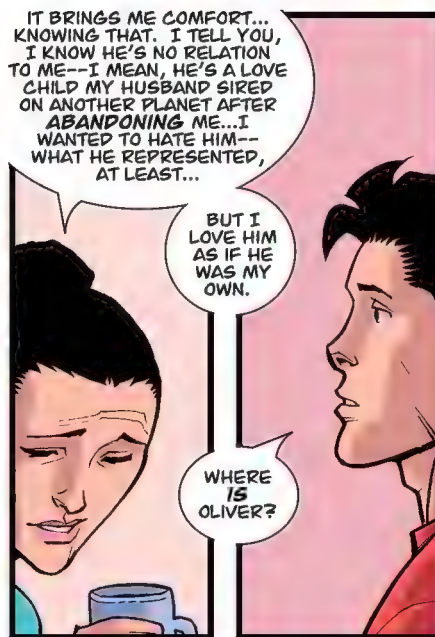
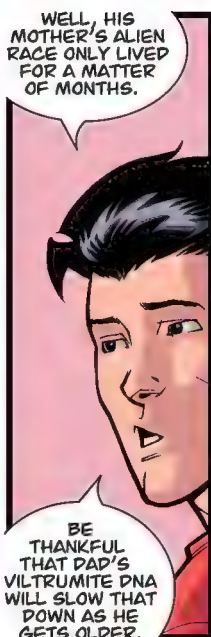
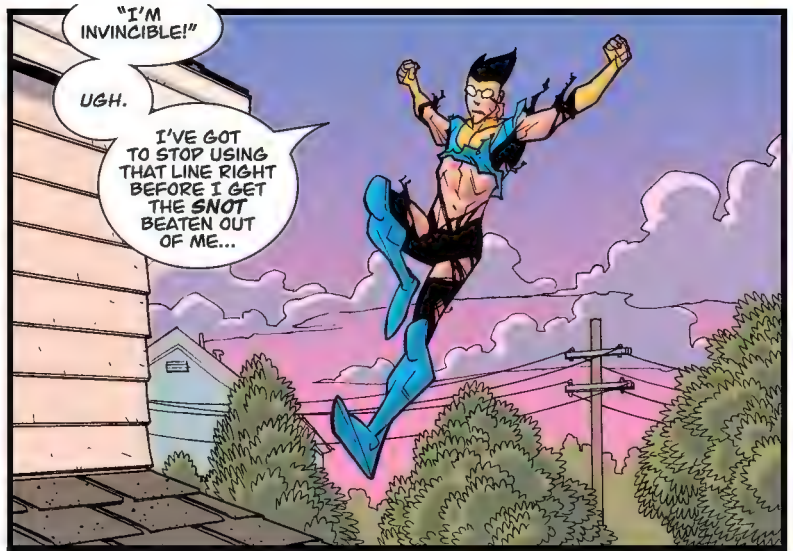
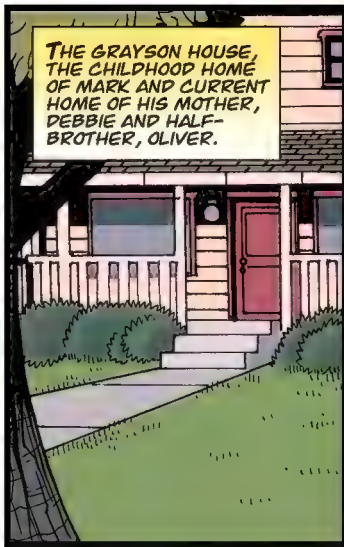
OCTOBOSS  
AM KILLING  
YOU FOR  
INSULT!

YOU'RE  
KIDDING,  
RIGHT?

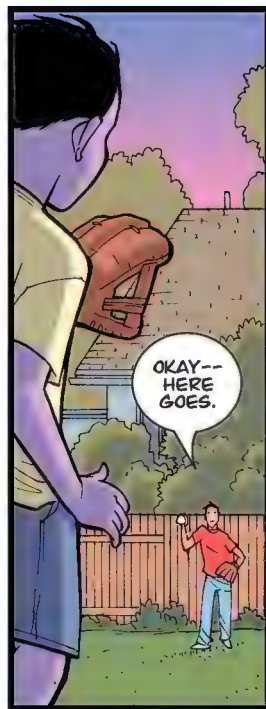
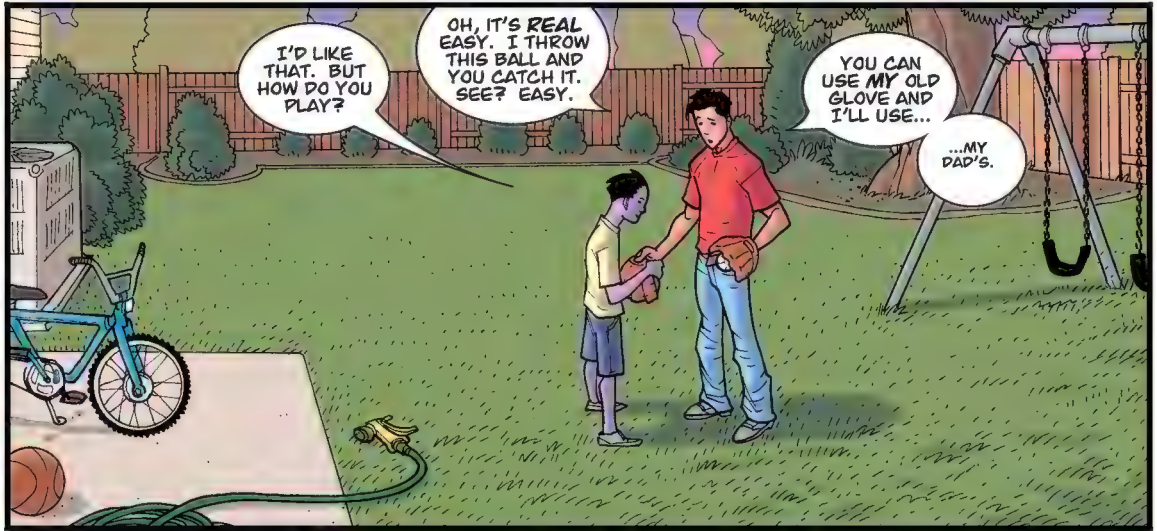
DIDN'T  
YOU SAY  
YOU'VE BEEN  
WATCHING  
THE NEWS?

I'M  
INVINCIBLE!













UM...

I HAVEN'T  
TOLD MOM YET.  
I WANTED TO  
**SURPRISE**  
YOU.

MISSION  
ACCOMPLISHED.

WOW.



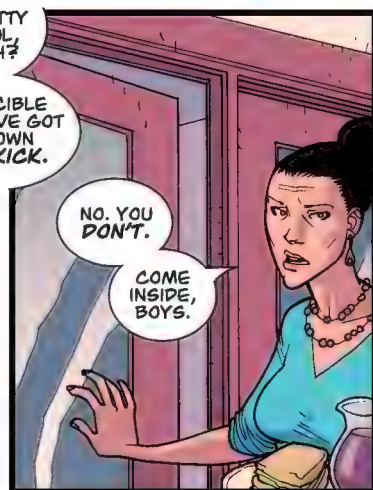
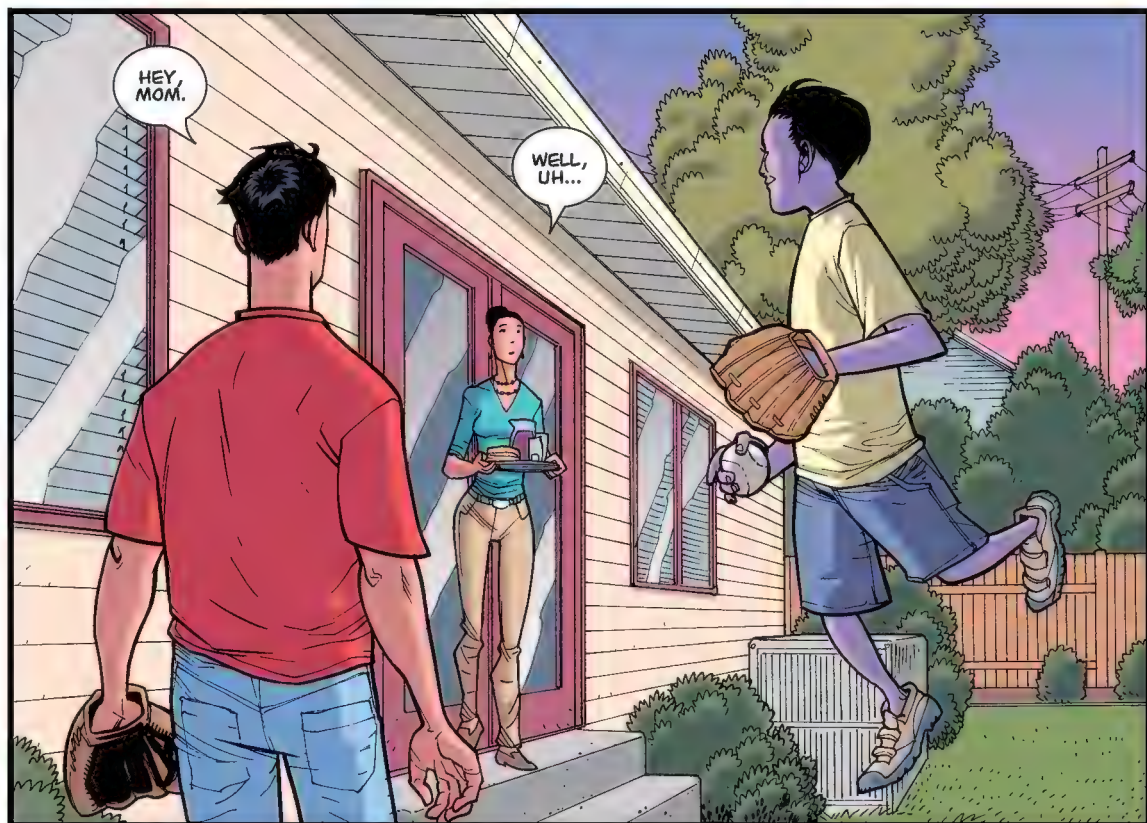




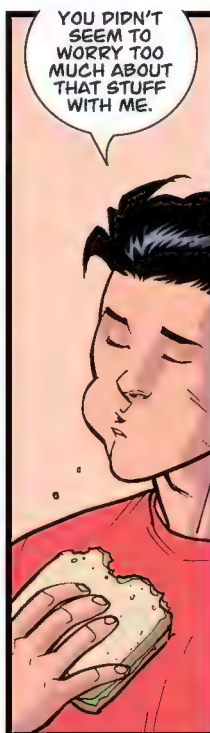
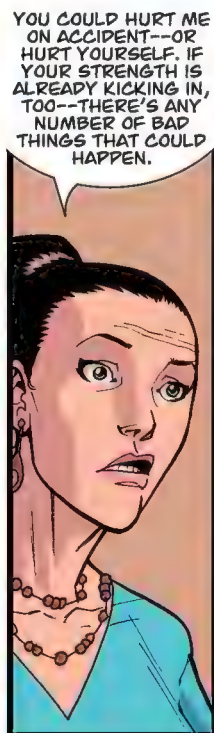
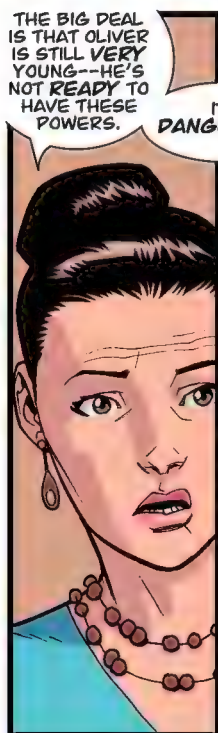
# CHAPTER TWO













WELL, IF THAT'S ALL IT IS--IF HE JUST NEEDS SOMEONE TO GUIDE HIM AND HELP HIM FIGURE STUFF OUT--I COULD DO THAT.

YOU'VE GOT SCHOOL.

I COULD QUIT SCHOOL.

MARK.

WHAT? WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

I'M FAILING MOST OF MY CLASSES--I'M JUST NOT DOING WELL AT ALL. I'VE GOT TOO MANY DISTRACTIONS. I NEVER HAVE TIME TO DO MY HOMEWORK. I MISS MORE CLASSES THAN I ATTEND.

AND LET'S FACE IT... I'M TOTALLY WASTING MY TIME THERE. I'M GOING TO COLLEGE--TO BUY TIME--NOT TO LEARN SOMETHING.

WITH MY POWERS I COULD DO ANYTHING AND MAKE A LIVING. WORLD'S FASTEST PIZZA DELIVERY BOY--ANYTHING. CECIL IS ALREADY PAYING ME MORE THAN I COULD EVER MAKE WITH A "REAL" JOB.

YOU KNOW I DON'T REALLY NEED SCHOOL. WHAT--AM I GOING TO BE A DENTIST? WHY WOULD I DO THAT?

I'D BE BETTER OFF HERE-- TRAINING OLIVER. I COULD MOVE BACK HOME AND EVERYTHING.

I DON'T SEE WHY NOT.

YOU'RE NOT QUITTING SCHOOL.

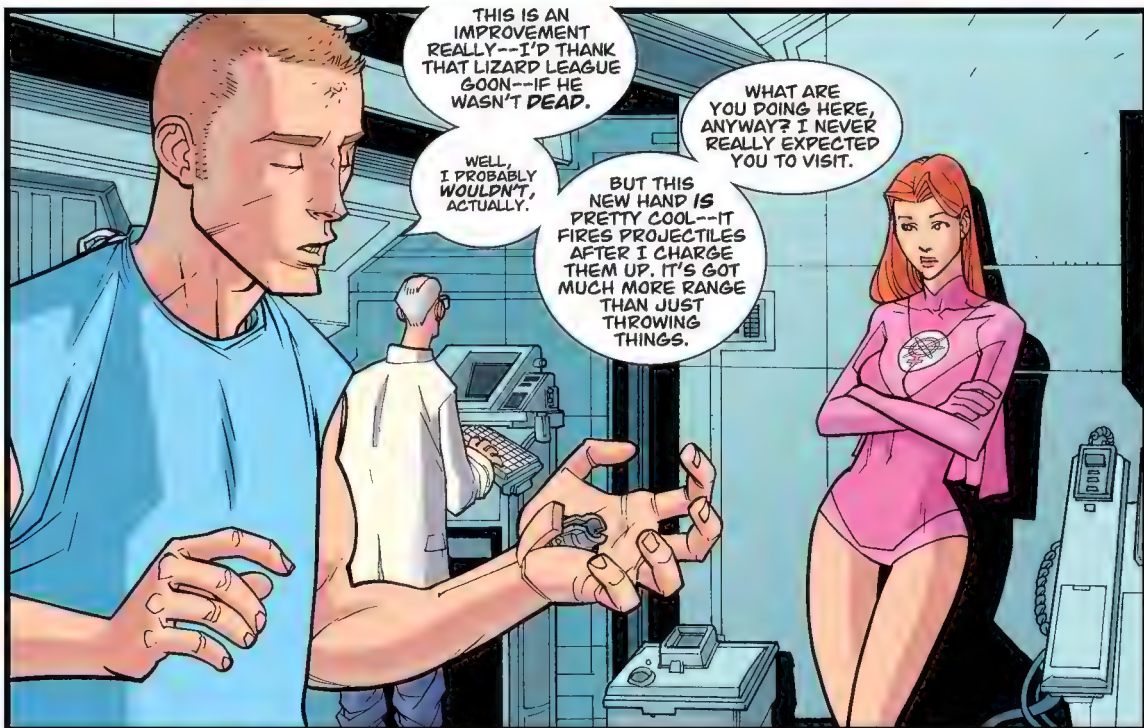
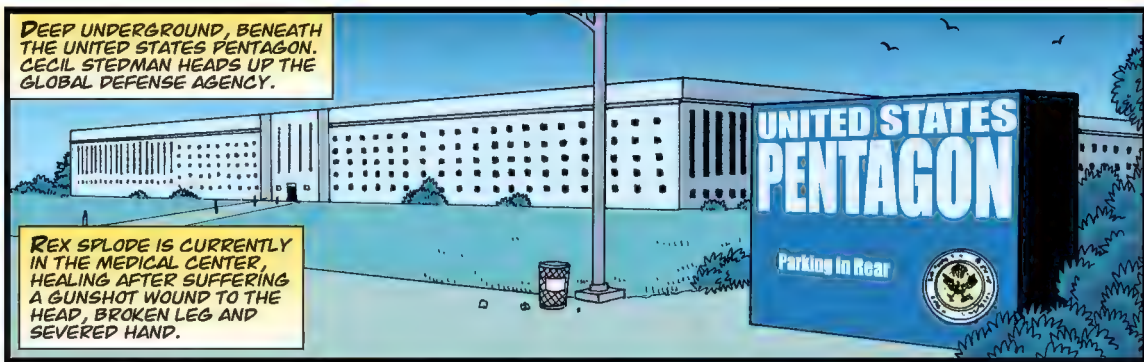
TELL ME WHY I NEED SCHOOL AND I'LL CONSIDER STAYING.

GO ON.



DEEP UNDERGROUND, BENEATH THE UNITED STATES PENTAGON. CECIL STEPMAN HEADS UP THE GLOBAL DEFENSE AGENCY.

REX SPODE IS CURRENTLY IN THE MEDICAL CENTER, HEALING AFTER SUFFERING A GUNSHOT WOUND TO THE HEAD, BROKEN LEG AND SEVERED HAND.



THIS IS AN IMPROVEMENT REALLY--I'D THANK THAT LIZARD LEAGUE GOON--IF HE WASN'T DEAD.

WELL, I PROBABLY WOULDN'T, ACTUALLY.

BUT THIS NEW HAND IS PRETTY COOL--IT FIRES PROJECTILES AFTER I CHARGE THEM UP. IT'S GOT MUCH MORE RANGE THAN JUST THROWING THINGS.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, ANYWAY? I NEVER REALLY EXPECTED YOU TO VISIT.

LOOK, YOU'RE A SCUMBAG, OF THE HIGHEST ORDER--

THANKS.

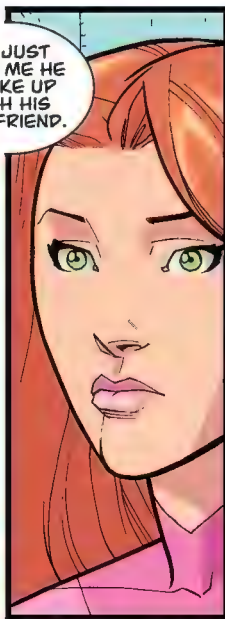
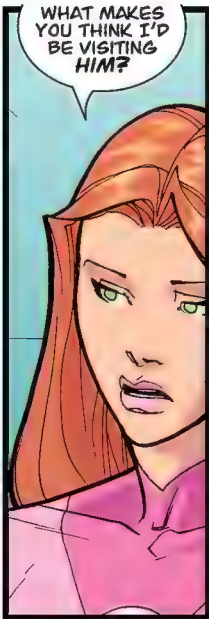
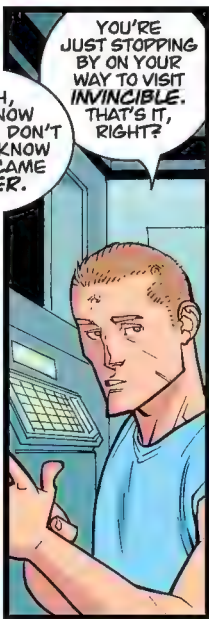
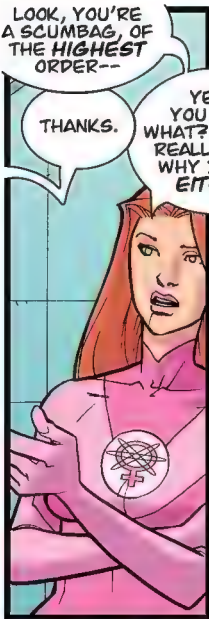
YEAH, YOU KNOW WHAT? I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHY I CAME EITHER.

YOU'RE JUST STOPPING BY ON YOUR WAY TO VISIT INVINCIBLE. THAT'S IT, RIGHT?

WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I'D BE VISITING HIM?

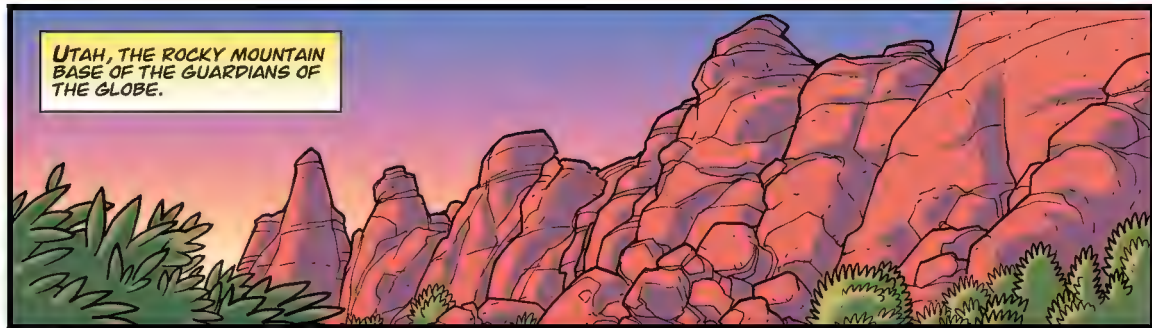
I KNOW YOU ALWAYS KINDA HAD A THING FOR HIM. HE'S A GOOD GUY-- YOU SHOULD GO FOR IT.

HE JUST TOLD ME HE BROKE UP WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND.





UTAH, THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
BASE OF THE GUARDIANS OF  
THE GLOBE.



I KNOW YOU'VE BEEN THROUGH A LOT IN YOUR TIME--MORE THAN ANYONE COULD BEAR, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS. YOU DON'T HAVE TO ACT LIKE THIS ISN'T AFFECTING YOU. YOU CAN TAKE TIME OFF.

MAYBE YOU **SHOULD** TAKE SOME TIME OFF.

I AM FINE. I HAVE DEALT WITH DEATH ALL MY LIFE. I AM SADDENED BY DUPLI-KATE'S PASSING BUT SHE IS NOT THE FIRST WIFE I HAVE LOST.

I WILL DEAL WITH THIS IN MY OWN WAY--IT WILL NOT EFFECT MY ABILITY TO LEAD THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE. TO BE HONEST, I NEED THE DISTRACTION.

THAT'S UNDERSTANDABLE. IF YOU'RE SURE--

HOLD ON--

SO WE'VE GOT A PROJECTILE FROM DEEP SPACE HEADED STRAIGHT FOR EARTH?

HOW LARGE?

AT THAT SIZE--WITH A TRAJECTORY THAT DELIBERATE IT MUST BE AN ATTACK. IT--

ATTACK? I'LL HANDLE THIS.

I'LL MEET THE OBJECT IN SPACE--IT WON'T REACH EARTH--YOU CAN COUNT ON THAT.

IMMORTAL-- WAIT--

DID YOU SAY IT'S ORGANIC? APPEARS TO BE LIVING?

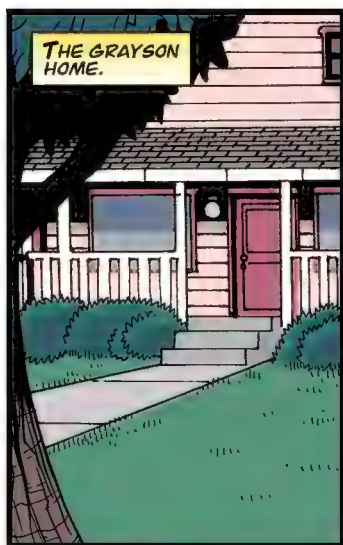
≡SIGH≡

HM.

I THINK I KNOW WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH.







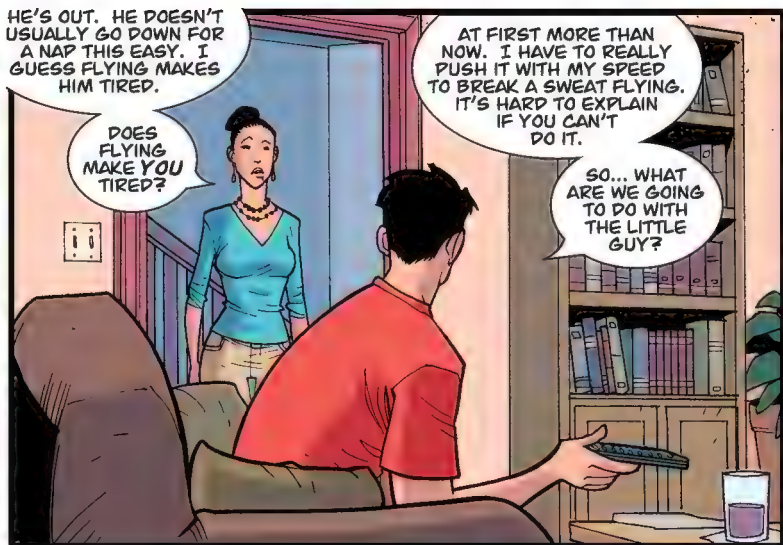
THE GRAYSON HOME.

HE'S OUT. HE DOESN'T USUALLY GO DOWN FOR A NAP THIS EASY. I GUESS FLYING MAKES HIM TIRED.

DOES FLYING MAKE YOU TIRED?

AT FIRST MORE THAN NOW. I HAVE TO REALLY PUSH IT WITH MY SPEED TO BREAK A SWEAT FLYING. IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN IF YOU CAN'T DO IT.

SO... WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THE LITTLE GUY?



ARE YOU REALLY FAILING ALL YOUR CLASSES? I DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT.



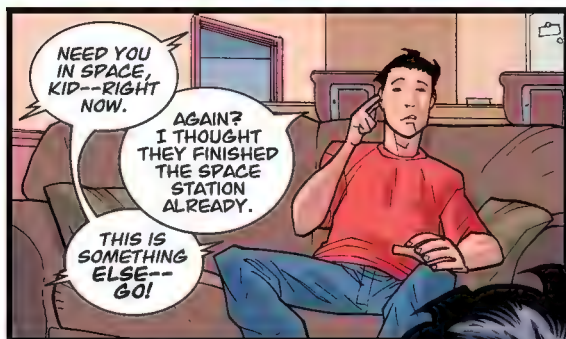
YEAH. IT'S JUST HARD TO FIND THE TIME.

HONESTLY, I JUST DO NOT TAKE IT SERIOUSLY. I DON'T CARE ABOUT IT. IT'S NOT IMPORTANT TO ME.



I CAN'T ARGUE WITH YOU. THINGS LIKE SCHOOL **MUST** SEEM UNIMPORTANT WHEN YOU'RE OUT IN SPACE TRYING TO SAVE THE WHOLE PLANET.

DO YOU WANT TO QUIT?



NEED YOU IN SPACE, KID--RIGHT NOW.

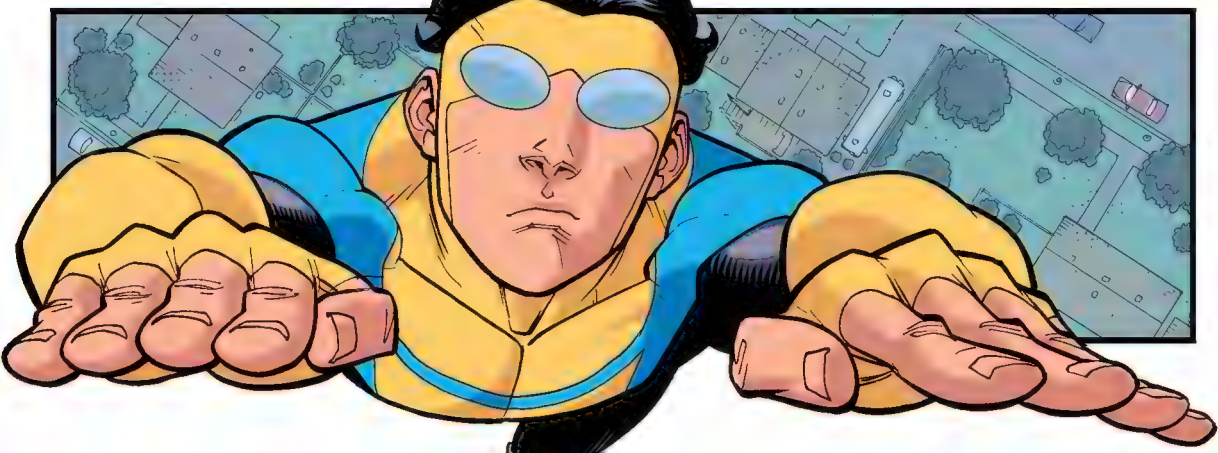
AGAIN? I THOUGHT THEY FINISHED THE SPACE STATION ALREADY.

THIS IS SOMETHING ELSE--GO!

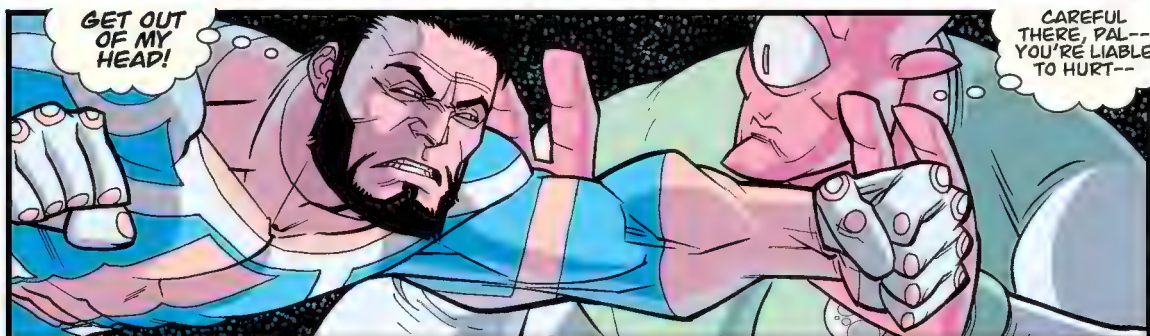


WE CAN FINISH THIS LATER. GO ON--BE A HERO... MAKE ME PROUD.

I'LL SEE YOU SOON.





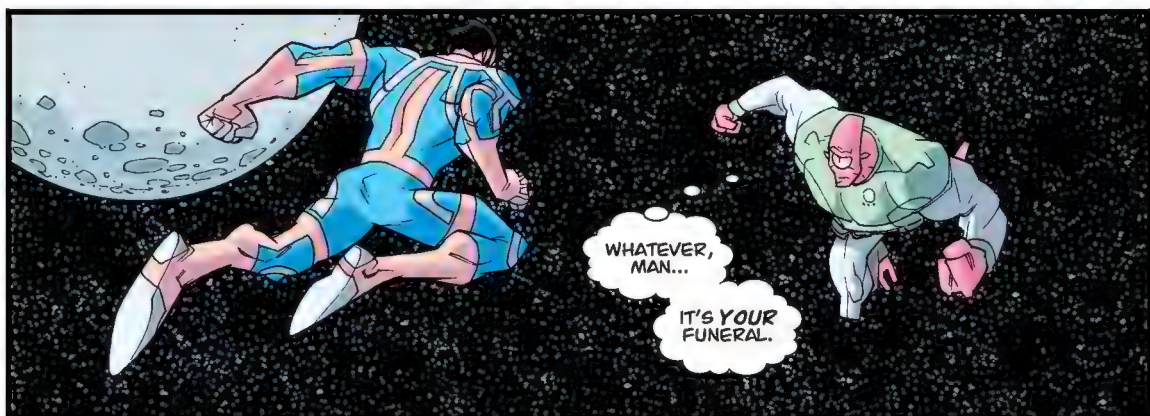
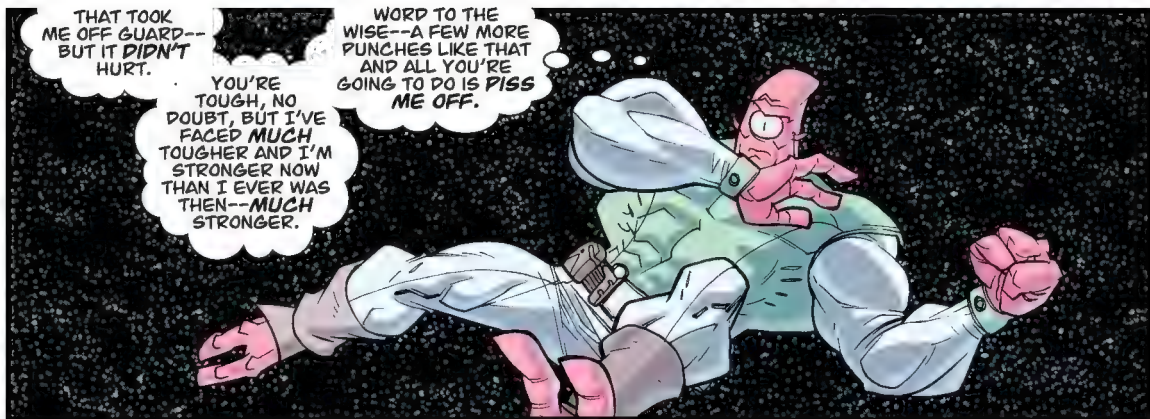




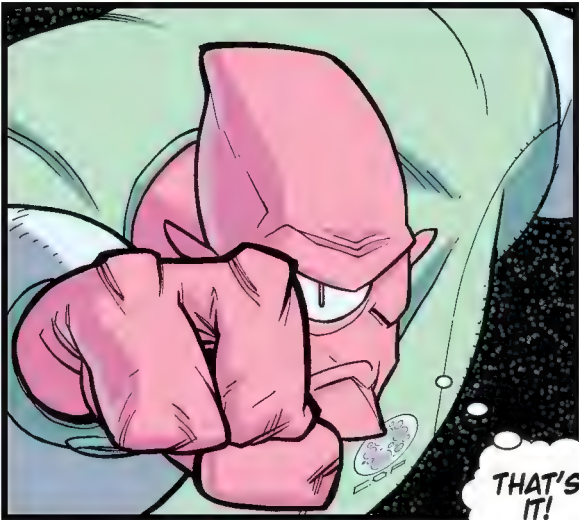


--SOMEONE.

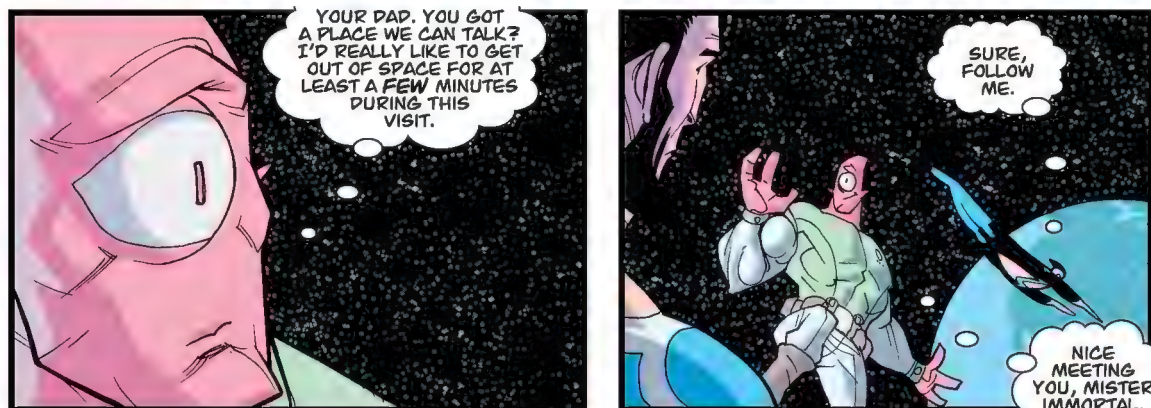
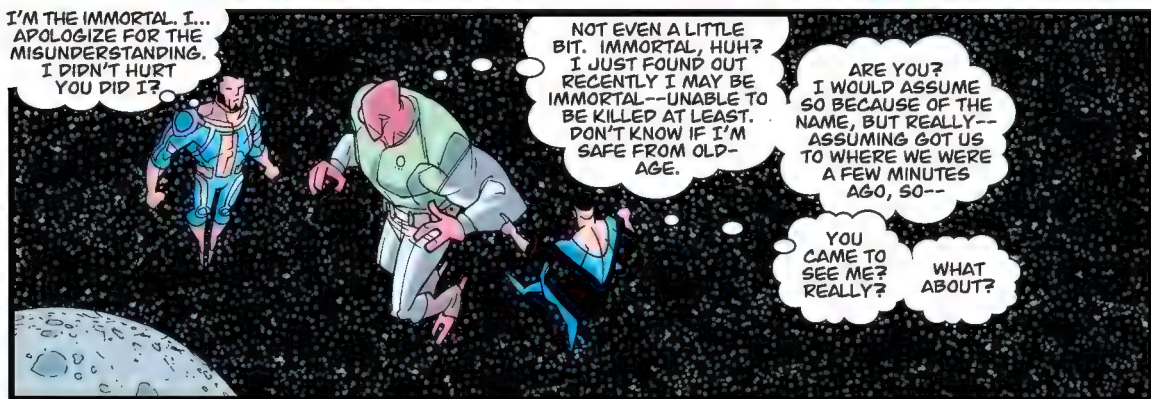
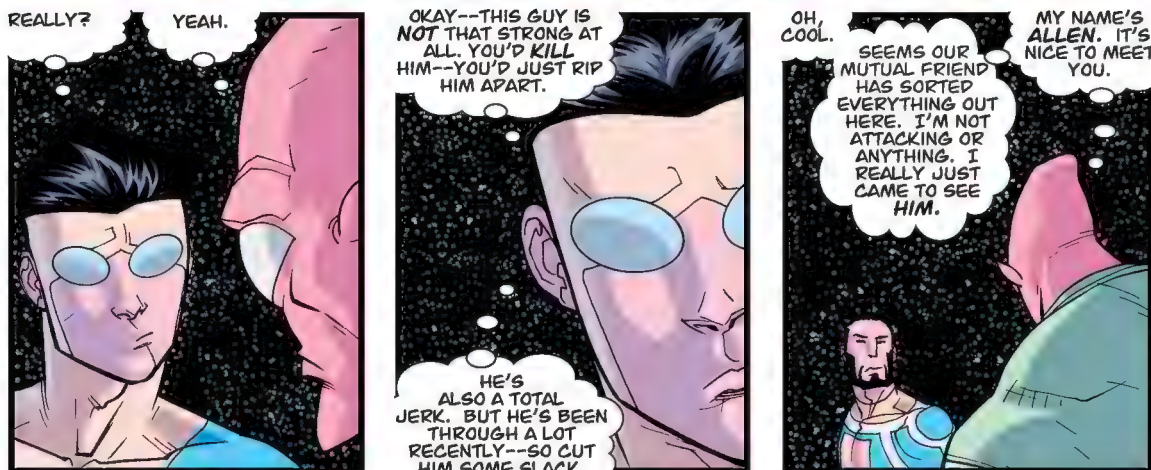
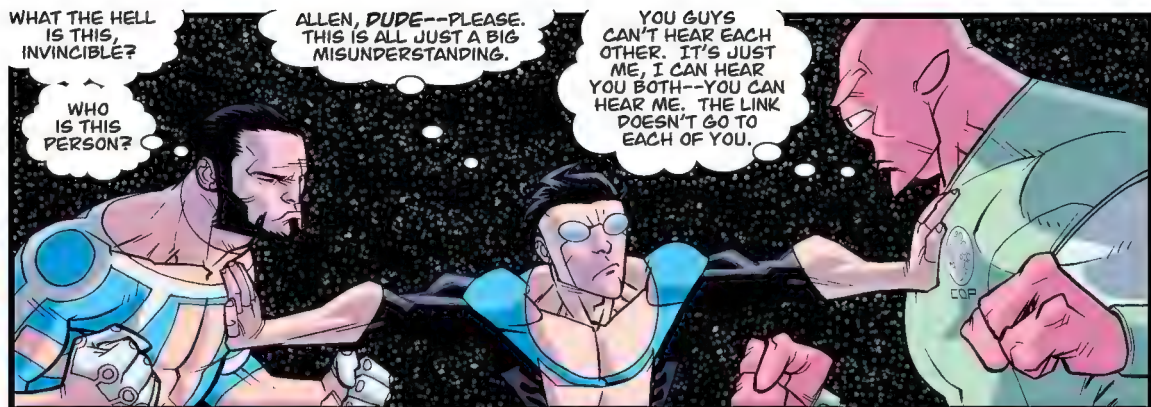








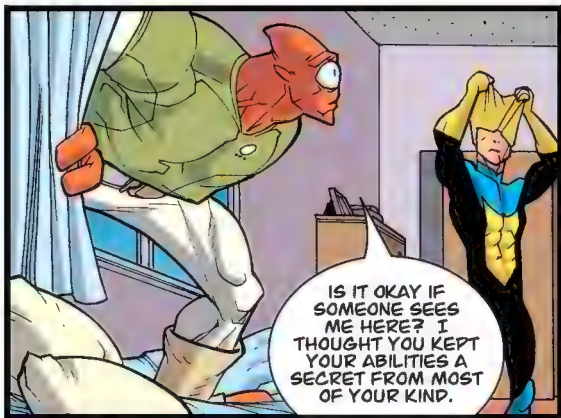








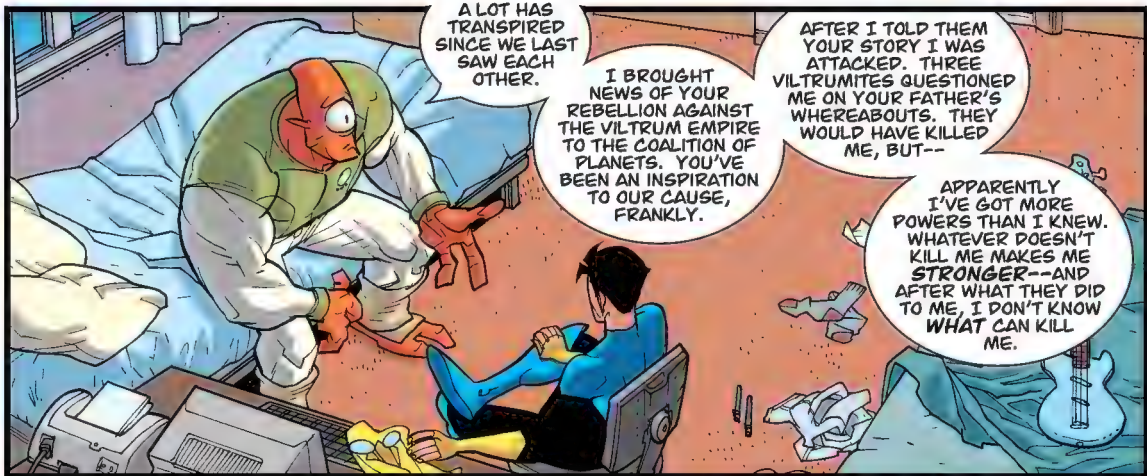
UPSTATE UNIVERSITY.  
THE DORM ROOM OF MARK  
GRAYSON AND WILLIAM  
CLOCKWELL.



IS IT OKAY IF  
SOMEONE SEES  
ME HERE? I  
THOUGHT YOU KEPT  
YOUR ABILITIES A  
SECRET FROM MOST  
OF YOUR KIND.

DON'T SWEAT IT. I  
COME IN THIS WINDOW  
ALL THE TIME. THERE'S  
HARDLY EVER ANYONE  
ON THIS SIDE OF THE  
BUILDING--AND THE  
OPPS OF THEM LOOKING  
UP AT THE RIGHT  
TIME ARE  
LOW.

WHAT  
CAN I  
DO FOR  
YOU?



A LOT HAS  
TRANSPIRED  
SINCE WE LAST  
SAW EACH  
OTHER.

I BROUGHT  
NEWS OF YOUR  
REBELLION AGAINST  
THE VILTRUM EMPIRE  
TO THE COALITION OF  
PLANETS. YOU'VE  
BEEN AN INSPIRATION  
TO OUR CAUSE,  
FRANKLY.

AFTER I TOLD THEM  
YOUR STORY I WAS  
ATTACKED. THREE  
VILTRUMITES QUESTIONED  
ME ON YOUR FATHER'S  
WHEREABOUTS. THEY  
WOULD HAVE KILLED  
ME, BUT--

APPARENTLY  
I'VE GOT MORE  
POWERS THAN I KNEW.  
WHATEVER DOESN'T  
KILL ME MAKES ME  
**STRONGER**--AND  
AFTER WHAT THEY DID  
TO ME, I DON'T KNOW  
WHAT CAN KILL  
ME.



YEAH--  
I NOTICED  
YOU PUT A  
LOT OF  
WEIGHT  
ON.

YOU'RE  
BEEFIER.



THANKS.

THAEDUS--  
THE LEADER OF  
THE COALITION OF  
PLANETS SUSPECTS  
THERE'S A MOLE  
WITHIN THE GROUP--  
SOMEONE WHO TIPPED  
OFF THE VILTRUMITES  
ABOUT MY REPORT  
ON EARTH, SENT  
THEM AFTER  
ME.

I'M  
WORKING  
EXCLUSIVELY  
FOR HIM NOW--  
HE SENT ME  
HERE.



SO, THAEDUS IS THE GUY IN CHARGE THERE? HE RUNS THE COALITION OF PLANETS. WHY DID HE SEND YOU HERE?

FOR YOU.

HE WANTS ME TO BRING YOU BACK TO TALESERIA, TO MEET WITH HIM. IF YOU'D LIKE TO PACK SOME THINGS--WE COULD--

WHAT?!

NO! NO WAY-- I'M NOT GOING ANYWHERE.

YOU'VE GOT NO IDEA WHAT I'VE BEEN THROUGH RECENTLY. I'M NOT GOING OUT INTO SPACE AGAIN-- NO WAY. I--SPACE SUCKS.

I'VE BEEN OUT IN SPACE MORE THAN I'VE BEEN ON THIS PLANET IN THE LAST FEW MONTHS. I JUST BROKE UP WITH MY GIRLFRIEND--WHO I REALLY DID LIKE-- BECAUSE I'M GONE SO MUCH. I NEVER GET TO SEE MY MOM.

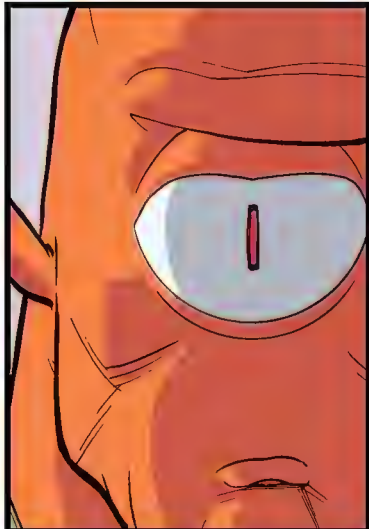
MY LITTLE BROTHER JUST GOT POWERS AND I--

NO. THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING. I'M SORRY ALLEN, BUT I'D FIGHT YOU BEFORE I LET YOU TAKE ME.

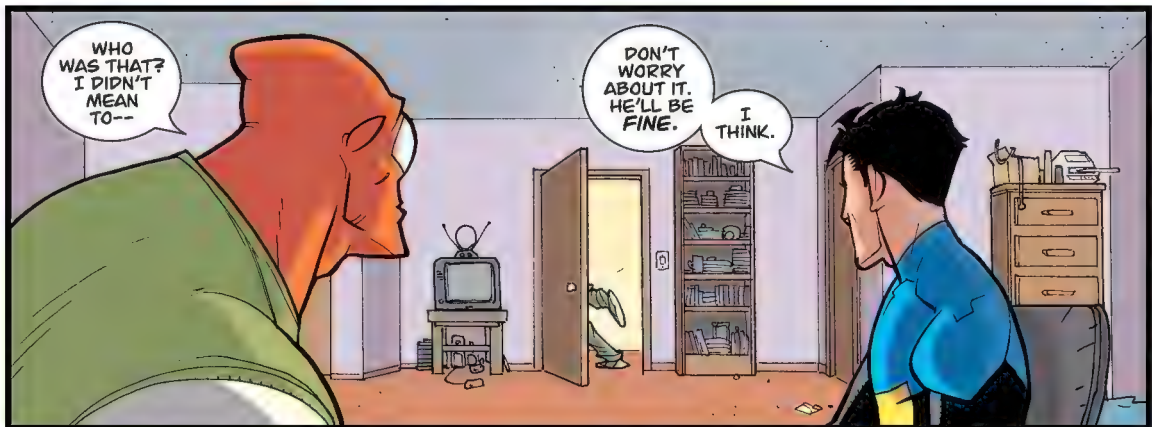


YOU'RE NOT GOING TO MAKE ME FIGHT YOU...

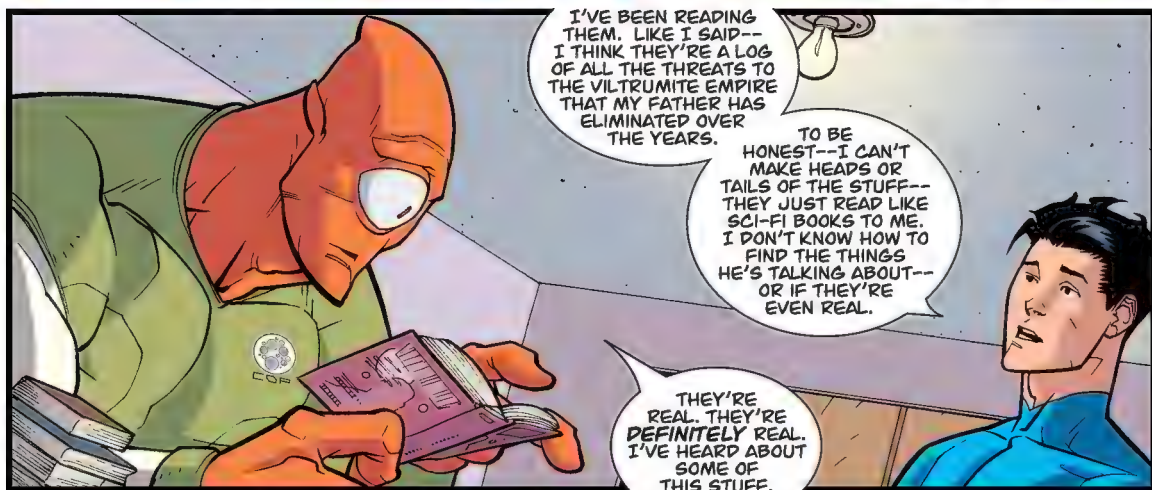
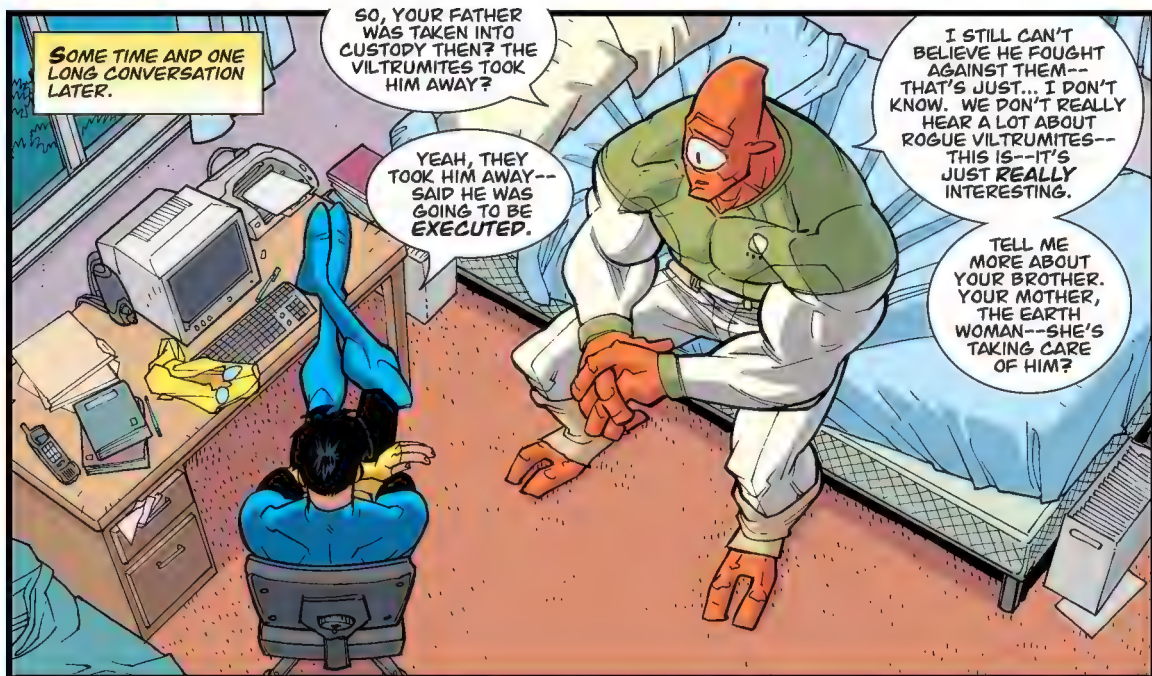
...ARE YOU?



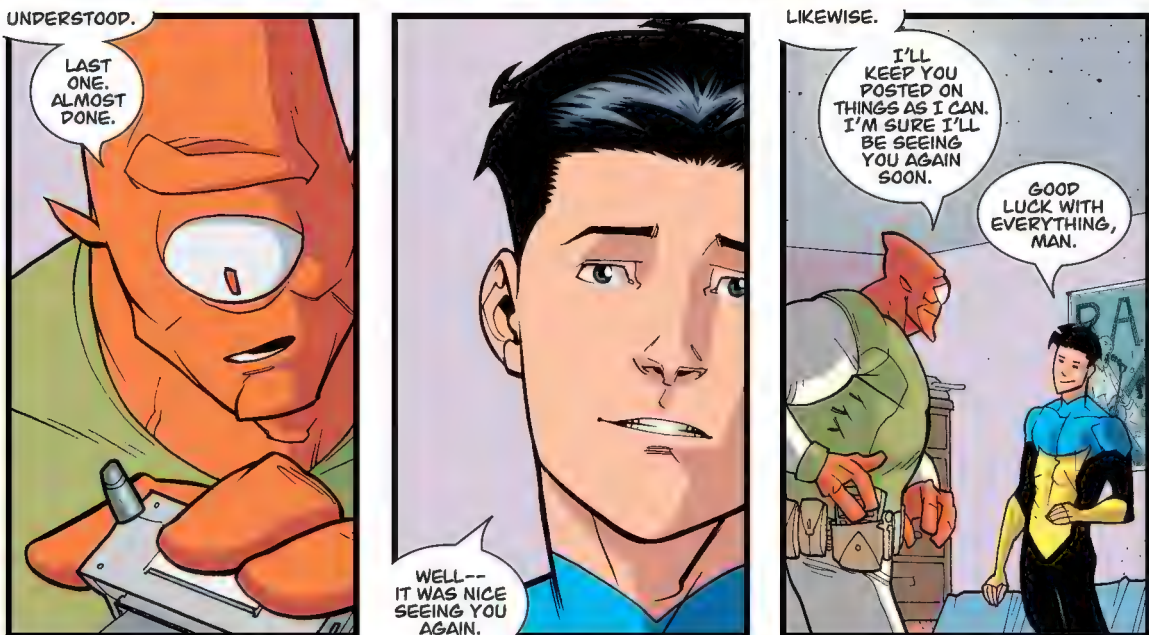
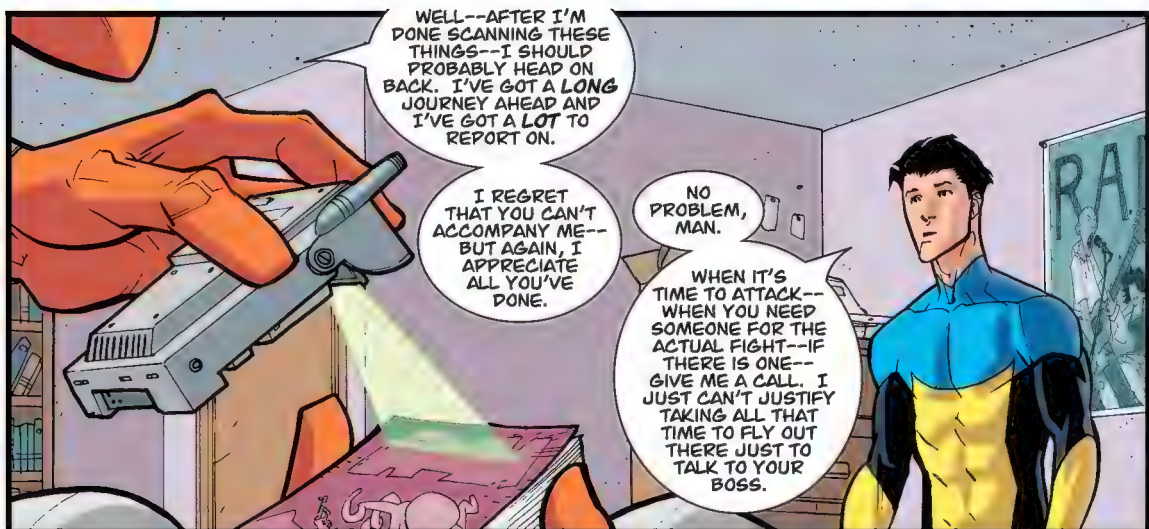
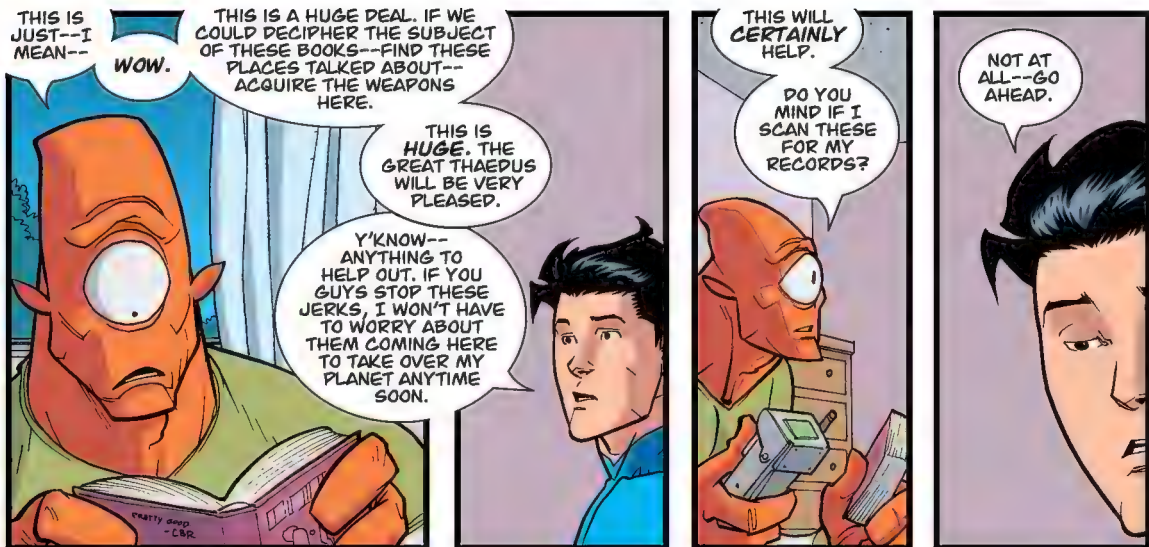




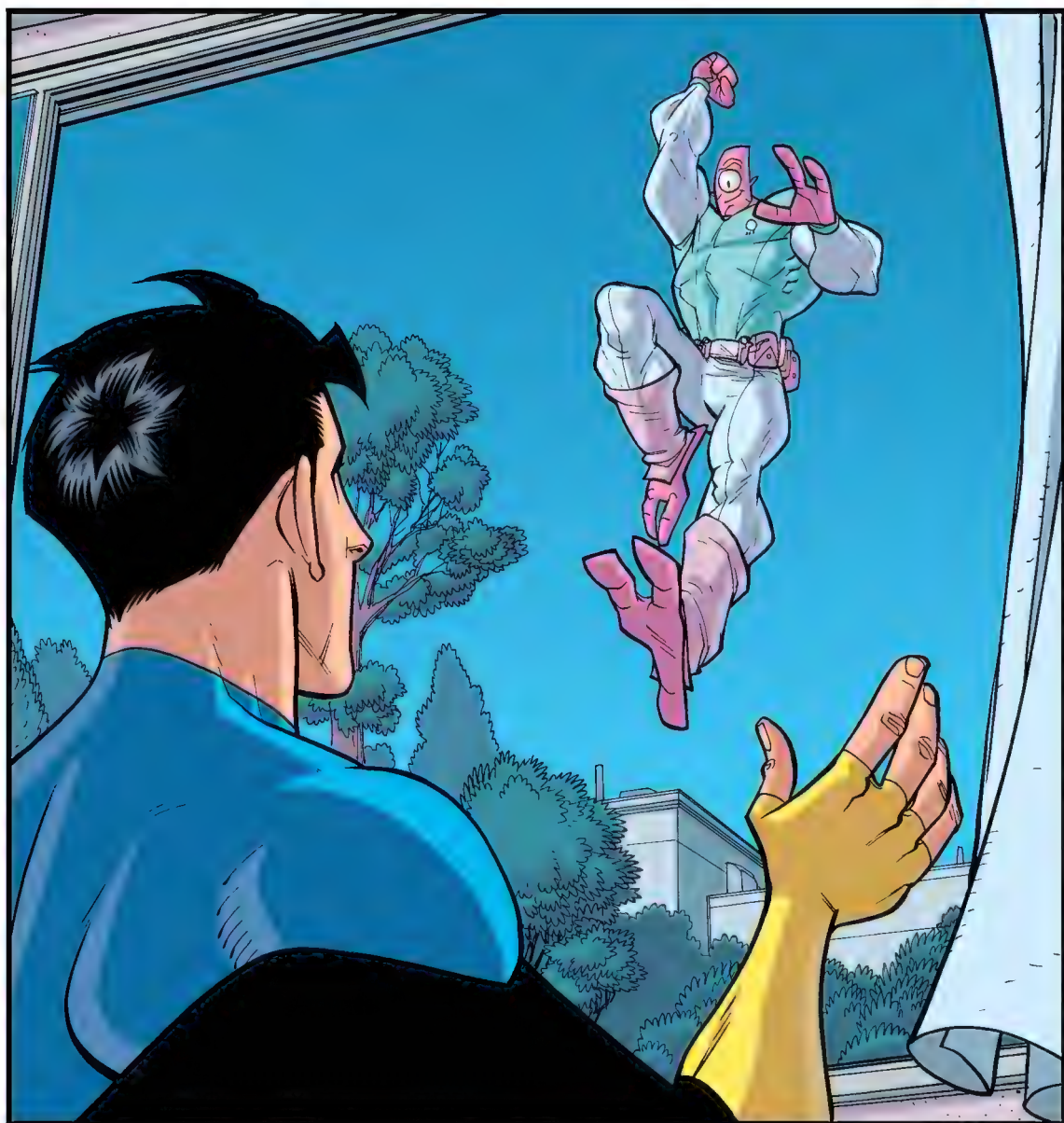








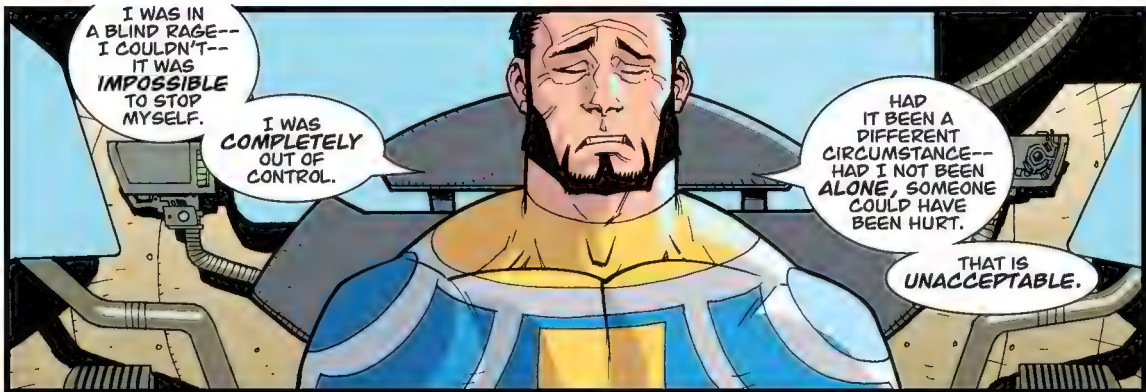








UTAH, THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN BASE OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE.

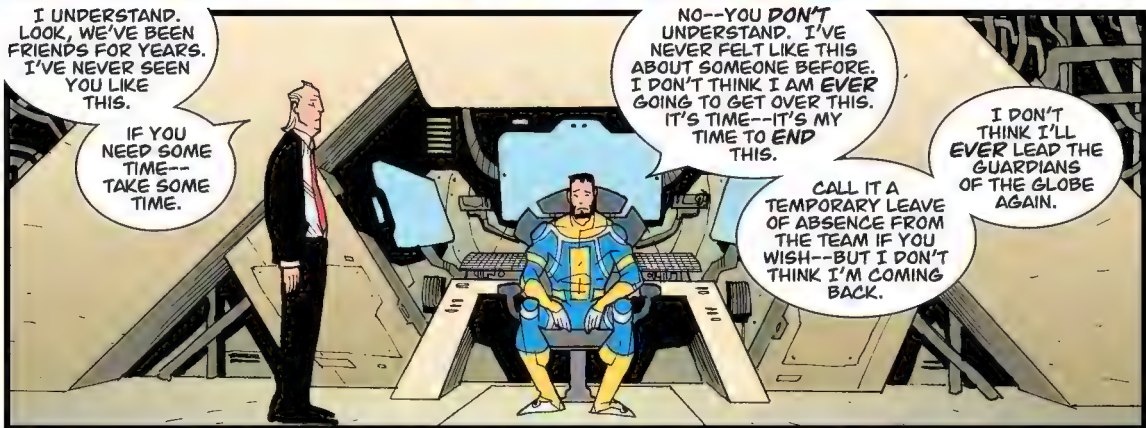


I WAS IN A BLIND RAGE-- I COULDN'T-- IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO STOP MYSELF.

I WAS COMPLETELY OUT OF CONTROL.

HAD IT BEEN A DIFFERENT CIRCUMSTANCE-- HAD I NOT BEEN ALONE, SOMEONE COULD HAVE BEEN HURT.

THAT IS UNACCEPTABLE.



I UNDERSTAND. LOOK, WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS FOR YEARS. I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU LIKE THIS.

IF YOU NEED SOME TIME-- TAKE SOME TIME.

NO--YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. I'VE NEVER FELT LIKE THIS ABOUT SOMEONE BEFORE. I DON'T THINK I AM EVER GOING TO GET OVER THIS. IT'S TIME--IT'S MY TIME TO END THIS.

I DON'T THINK I'LL EVER LEAD THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE AGAIN.

CALL IT A TEMPORARY LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM THE TEAM IF YOU WISH--BUT I DON'T THINK I'M COMING BACK.



I'M DONE.



THERESA, PLEASE SCHEDULE A MEETING WITH ROBOT FOR MY EARLIEST POSSIBLE SLOT.

THANK YOU.



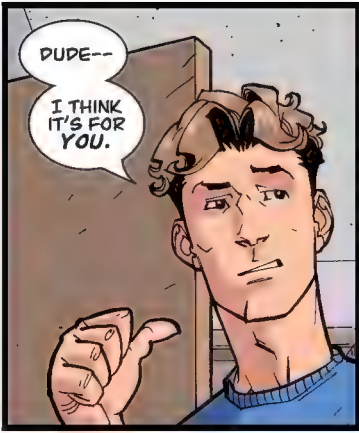
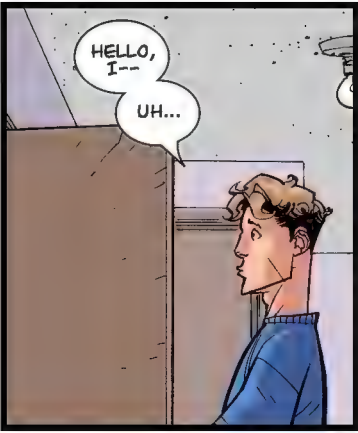
TELL HIM HIS OLD POSITION JUST OPENED UP.

I WANT TO GIVE HIM ANOTHER CHANCE.













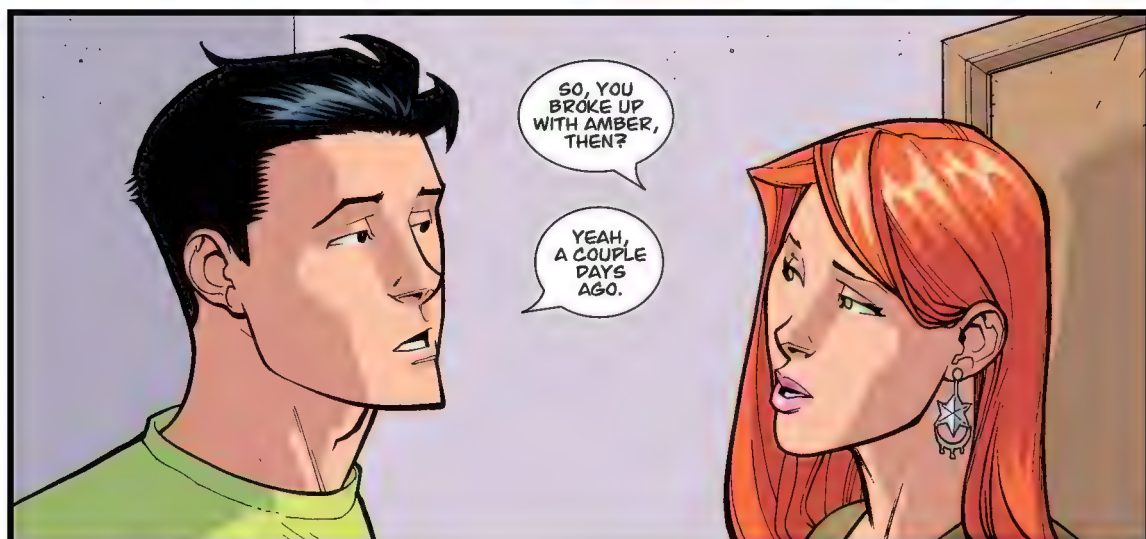
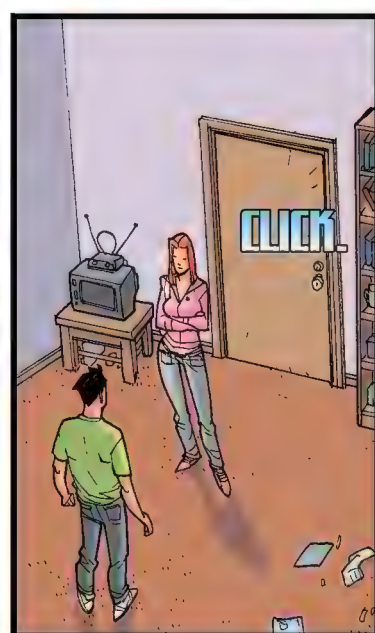
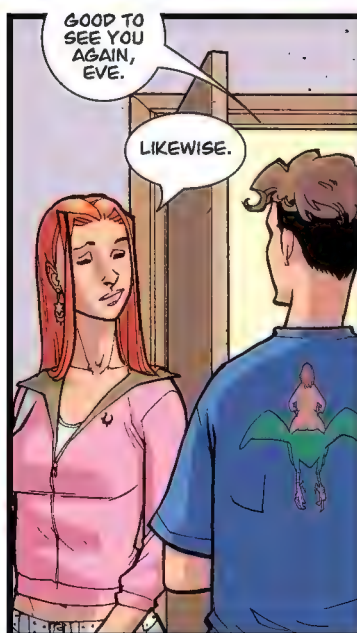




# CHAPTER THREE

Ryan







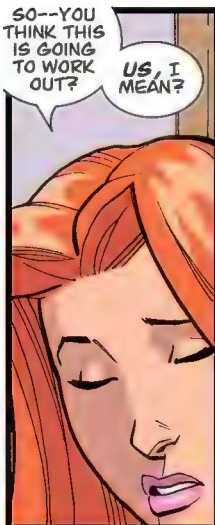


WERE YOU GOING TO CALL ME?



OF COURSE. I JUST... I JUST BROKE UP WITH HER. I STILL HAD SOME THINGS TO WORK OUT, Y'KNOW?

I WAS GOING TO CALL YOU. OR JUST VISIT.



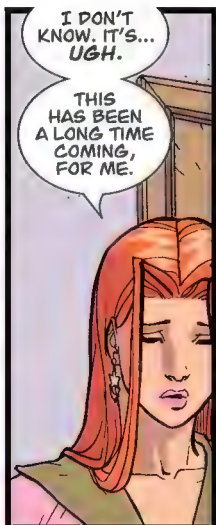
SO--YOU THINK THIS IS GOING TO WORK OUT?

US, I MEAN?



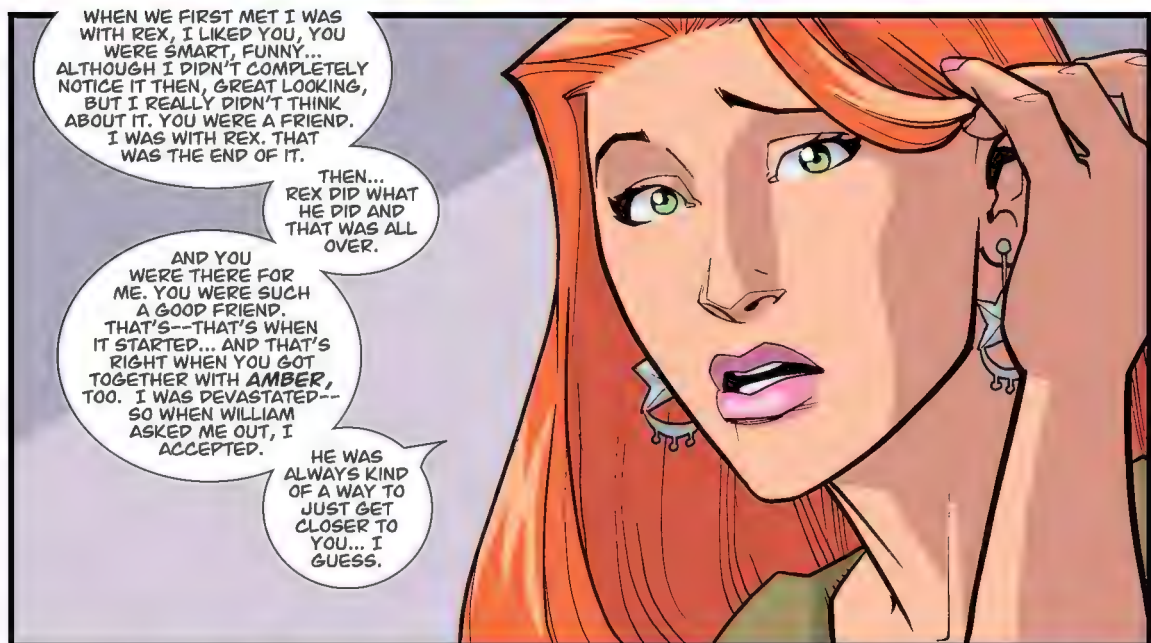
OF COURSE, EVE. I HAVE FEELINGS FOR YOU. I WAS JUST TAKING SOME TIME.

LOOK AT YOU--WHERE'S THAT NAME BRAND ATOM EVE CONFIDENCE? I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU LIKE THIS.



I DON'T KNOW. IT'S... UGH.

THIS HAS BEEN A LONG TIME COMING, FOR ME.

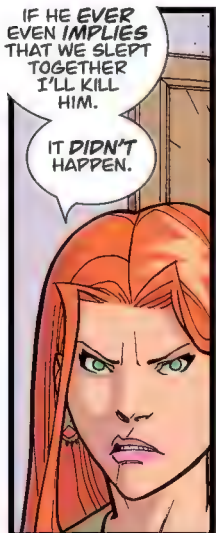


WHEN WE FIRST MET I WAS WITH REX, I LIKED YOU, YOU WERE SMART, FUNNY... ALTHOUGH I DIDN'T COMPLETELY NOTICE IT THEN, GREAT LOOKING, BUT I REALLY DIDN'T THINK ABOUT IT. YOU WERE A FRIEND. I WAS WITH REX. THAT WAS THE END OF IT.

THEN... REX DID WHAT HE DID AND THAT WAS ALL OVER.

AND YOU WERE THERE FOR ME. YOU WERE SUCH A GOOD FRIEND. THAT'S--THAT'S WHEN IT STARTED... AND THAT'S RIGHT WHEN YOU GOT TOGETHER WITH AMBER, TOO. I WAS DEVASTATED--SO WHEN WILLIAM ASKED ME OUT, I ACCEPTED.

HE WAS ALWAYS KIND OF A WAY TO JUST GET CLOSER TO YOU... I GUESS.



IF HE EVER EVEN IMPLIES THAT WE SLEPT TOGETHER I'LL KILL HIM.

IT DIDN'T HAPPEN.

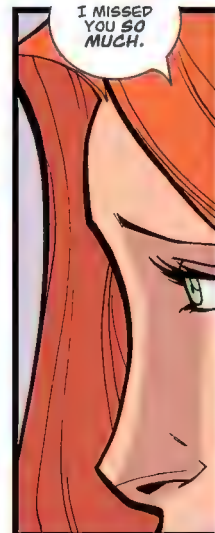


HE HASN'T YET... BUT UH, DULY NOTED.

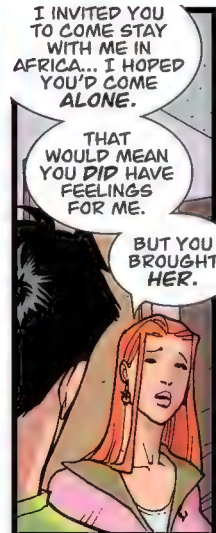


AFTER I BROKE UP WITH WILLIAM, I JUST-- IT WAS PAINFUL TO BE AROUND YOU. YOU AND AMBER WERE SO HAPPY IT... I DID GO TO AFRICA TO HELP PEOPLE, TO DO GOOD...

BUT BEING AWAY FROM YOU WAS A BIG PART OF IT.



I MISSED YOU SO MUCH.

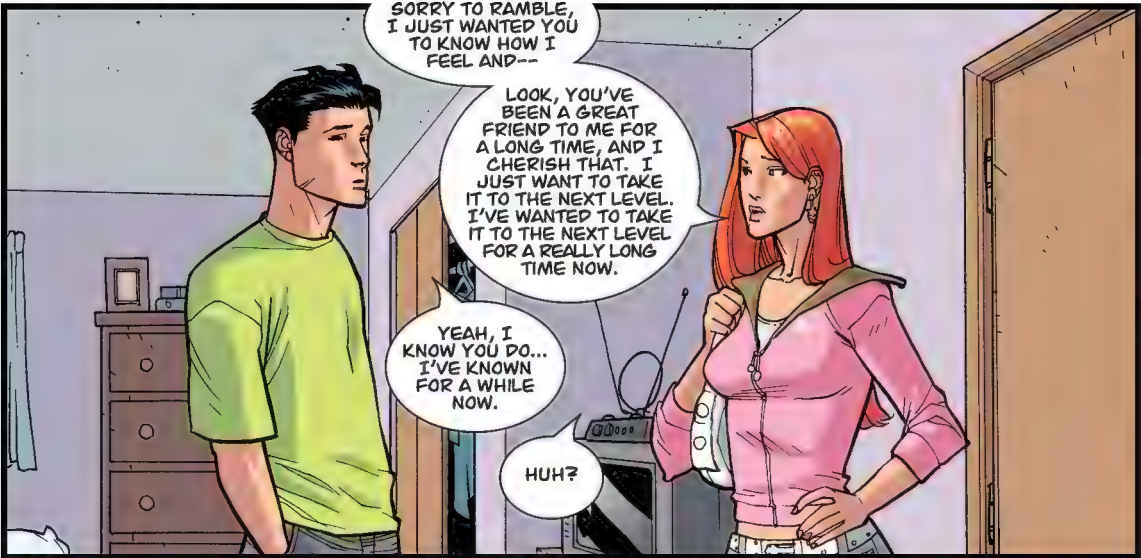


I INVITED YOU TO COME STAY WITH ME IN AFRICA... I HOPED YOU'D COME ALONE.

THAT WOULD MEAN YOU DID HAVE FEELINGS FOR ME.

BUT YOU BROUGHT HER.



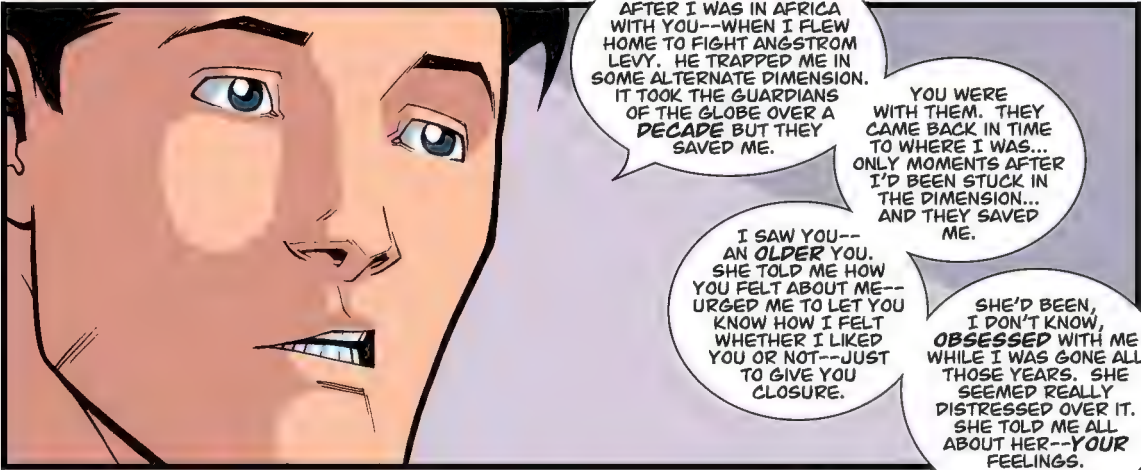


SORRY TO RAMBLE, I JUST WANTED YOU TO KNOW HOW I FEEL AND---

LOOK, YOU'VE BEEN A GREAT FRIEND TO ME FOR A LONG TIME, AND I CHERISH THAT. I JUST WANT TO TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL. I'VE WANTED TO TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL FOR A REALLY LONG TIME NOW.

YEAH, I KNOW YOU DO... I'VE KNOWN FOR A WHILE NOW.

HUH?



AFTER I WAS IN AFRICA WITH YOU--WHEN I FLEW HOME TO FIGHT ANGSTROM LEVY. HE TRAPPED ME IN SOME ALTERNATE DIMENSION. IT TOOK THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE OVER A DECADE BUT THEY SAVED ME.

YOU WERE WITH THEM. THEY CAME BACK IN TIME TO WHERE I WAS... ONLY MOMENTS AFTER I'D BEEN STUCK IN THE DIMENSION... AND THEY SAVED ME.

I SAW YOU-- AN OLDER YOU. SHE TOLD ME HOW YOU FELT ABOUT ME-- URGED ME TO LET YOU KNOW HOW I FELT WHETHER I LIKED YOU OR NOT--JUST TO GIVE YOU CLOSURE.

SHE'D BEEN, I DON'T KNOW, OBSESSED WITH ME WHILE I WAS GONE ALL THOSE YEARS. SHE SEEMED REALLY DISTRESSED OVER IT. SHE TOLD ME ALL ABOUT HER--YOUR FEELINGS.



SHE TOLD YOU EVERYTHING?



YEAH.



SHE JUST... TOLD YOU HOW I FELT?

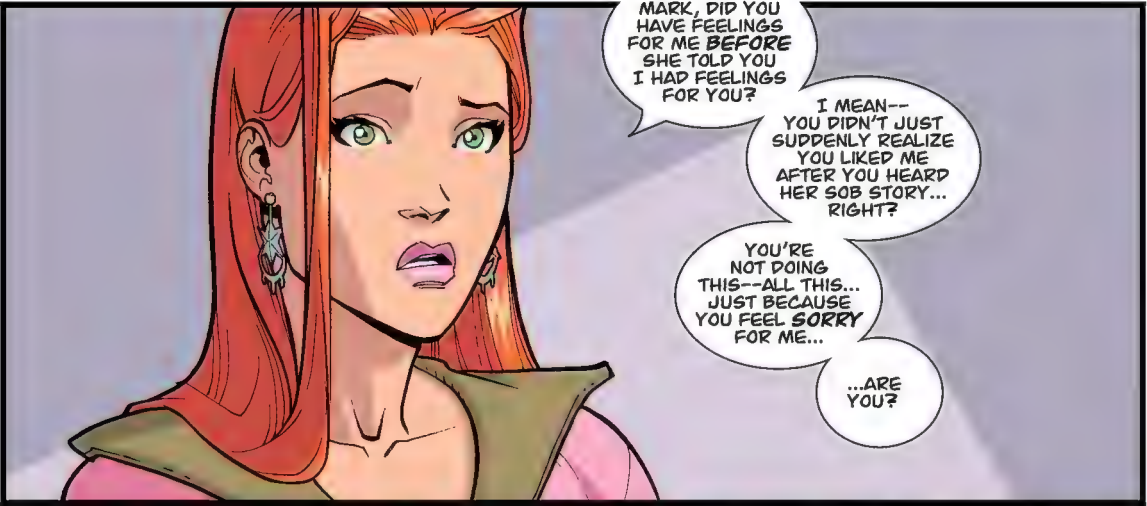


YEAH.



...





MARK, DID YOU  
HAVE FEELINGS  
FOR ME *BEFORE*  
SHE TOLD YOU  
I HAD FEELINGS  
FOR YOU?

I MEAN--  
YOU DIDN'T JUST  
SUDDENLY REALIZE  
YOU LIKED ME  
AFTER YOU HEARD  
HER SOB STORY...  
RIGHT?

YOU'RE  
NOT DOING  
THIS--ALL THIS...  
JUST BECAUSE  
YOU FEEL SORRY  
FOR ME...

...ARE  
YOU?



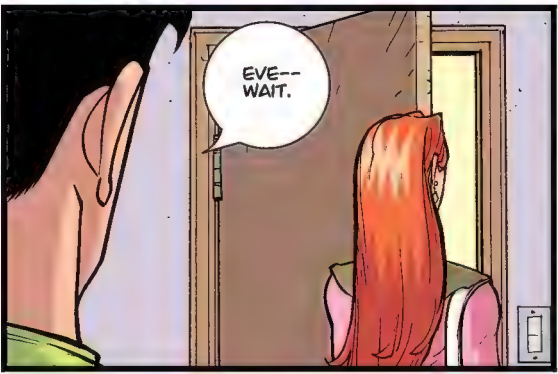
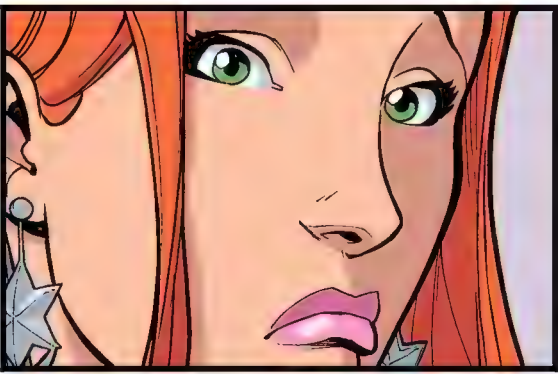
EVE,  
I...

I DON'T  
THINK  
SO.

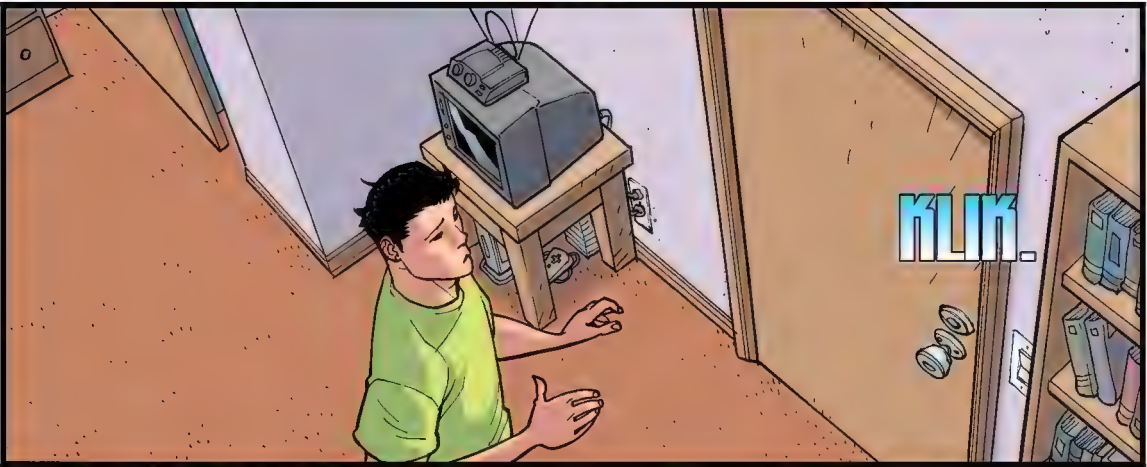


NO,  
I--I  
REALLY  
LIKE  
YOU...

I  
SWEAR.

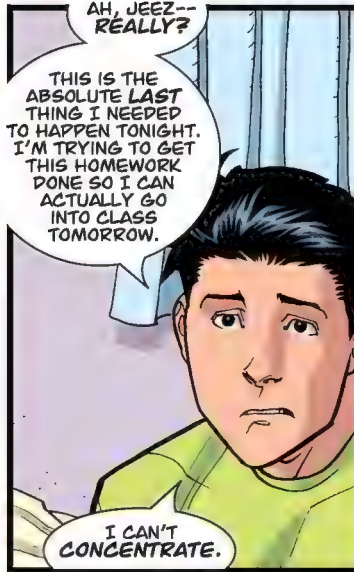


EVE--  
WAIT.

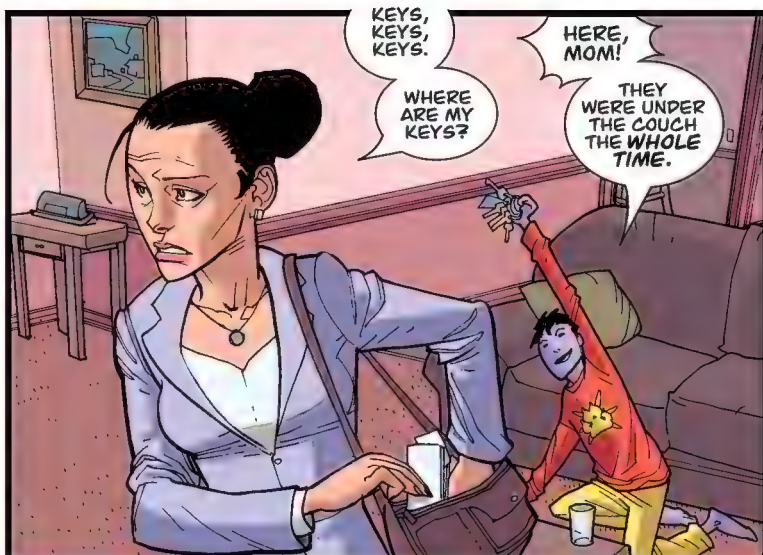


KLIK.

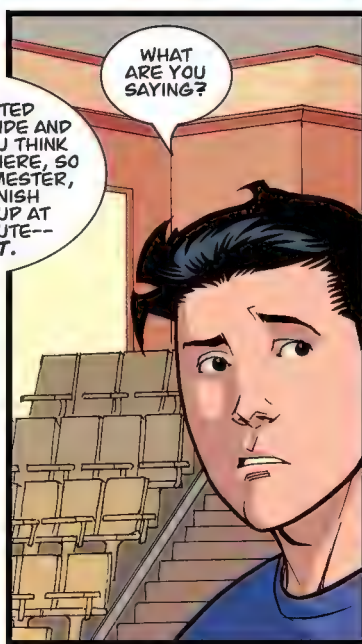




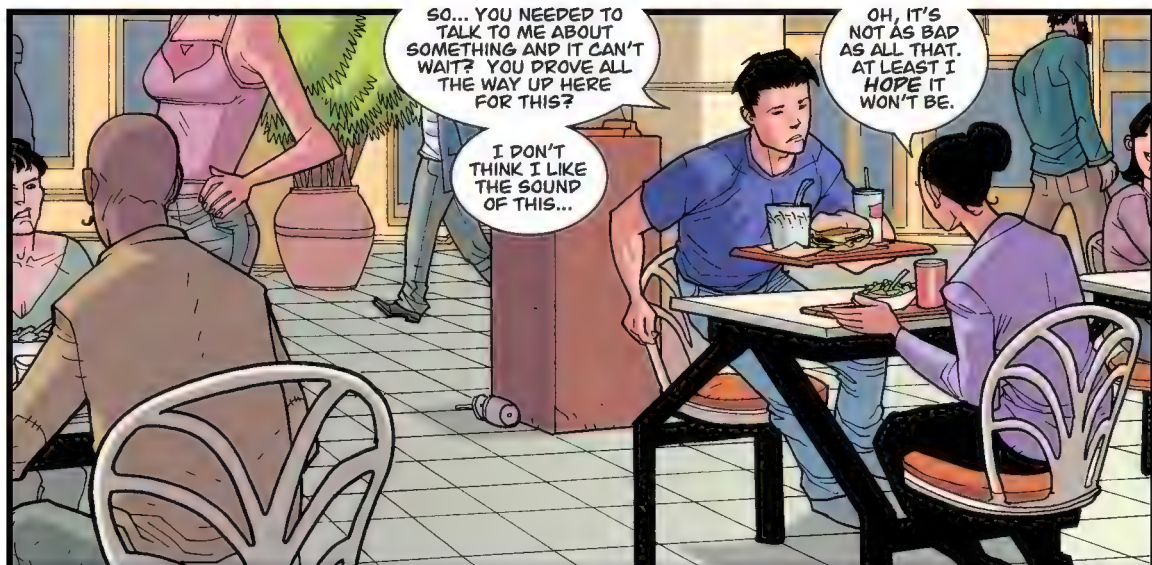
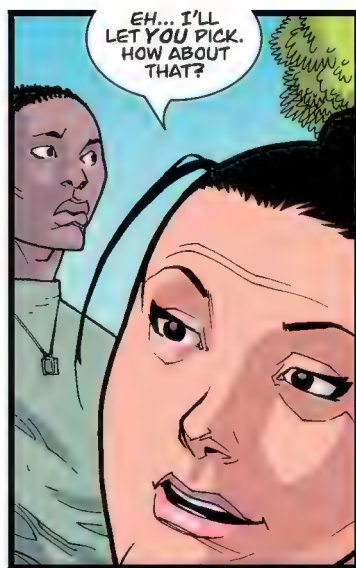




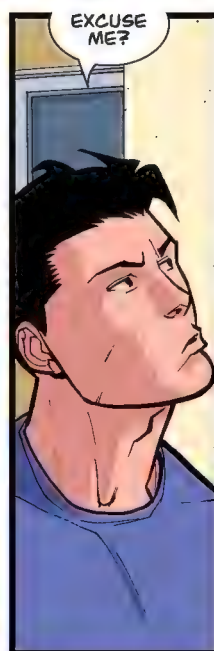
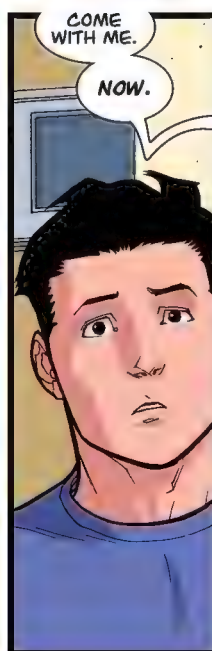
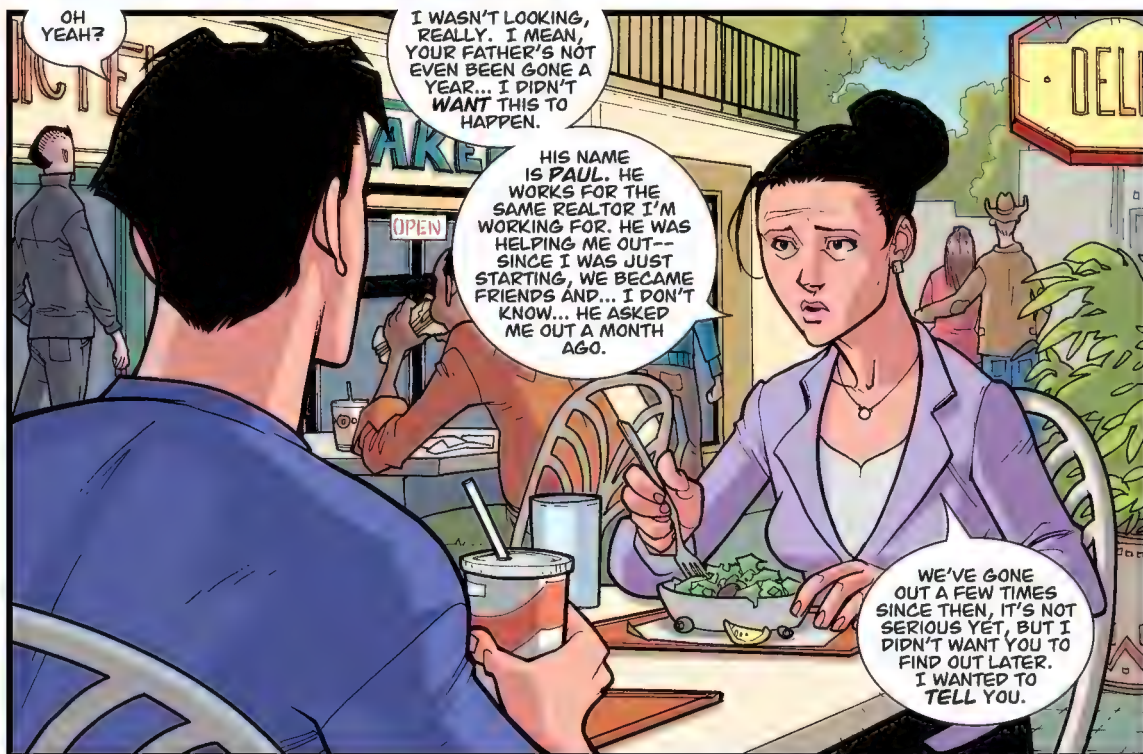




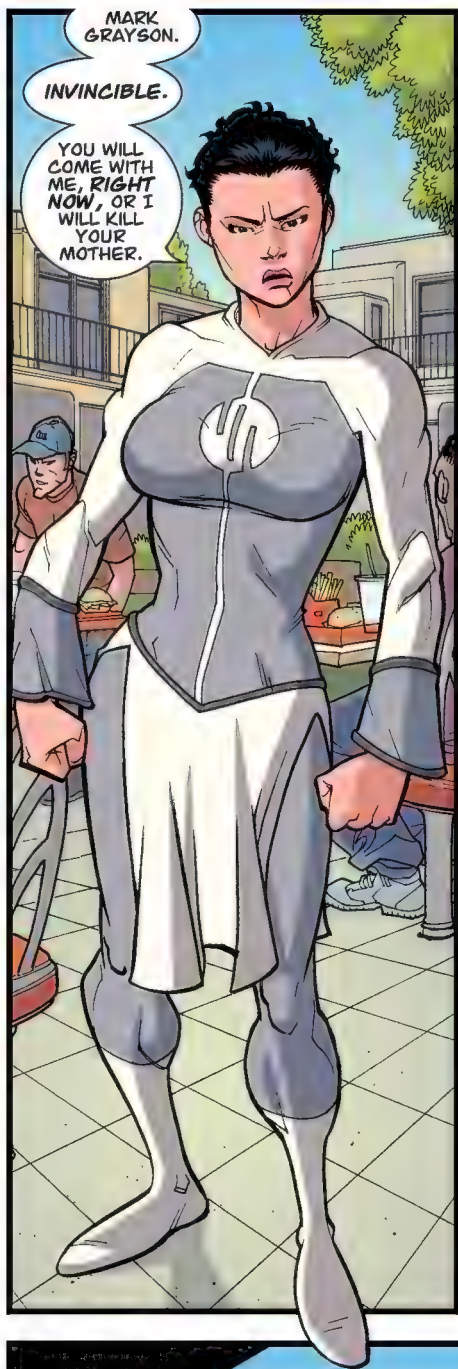




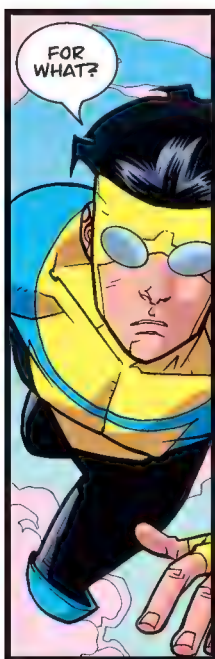










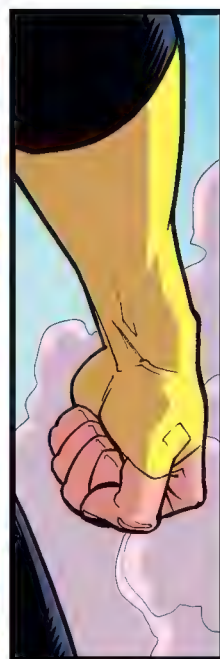
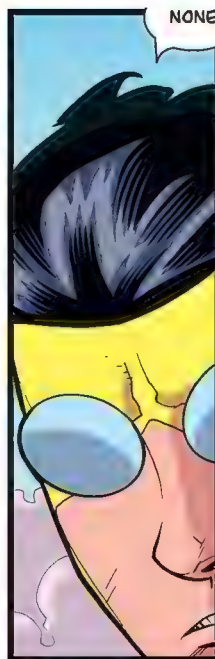
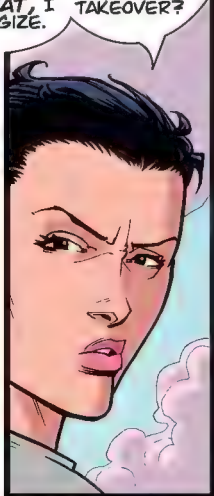


FOR THREATENING YOUR MOTHER. THAT'S NOT HOW I WANTED THIS TO START. IT WAS THE ONLY WAY I THOUGHT I COULD GET YOU ALONE QUICKLY.



FOR THAT, I APOLOGIZE.

YOU HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED THE VILTRUMITE AGENT OF THIS PLANET. WHAT STEPS HAVE YOU TAKEN TO PREPARE THIS PLANET FOR EVENTUAL TAKEOVER?







TO CLARIFY THINGS. I BELIEVE YOU ARE UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT VILTRUMITES ARE WARMONGERS, A RACE TO BE FEARED, OPPOSED, EVEN DESTROYED.

I'M HERE TO TELL YOU THAT YOU'RE MISTAKEN.



AND YOU STARTED BY THREATENING TO KILL MY MOTHER?



I WON'T DENY THERE ARE FUNDAMENTAL CULTURAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN VILTRUMITES AND THE PEOPLE YOU WERE RAISED AMONGST.



"FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES?"

YOU THINK?!



OUR PEOPLE ARE QUICK TO TURN VIOLENT. IT IS SOMETHING WE ALL STRUGGLE WITH. HAVE YOU NOT EXPERIENCED THIS YOURSELF?



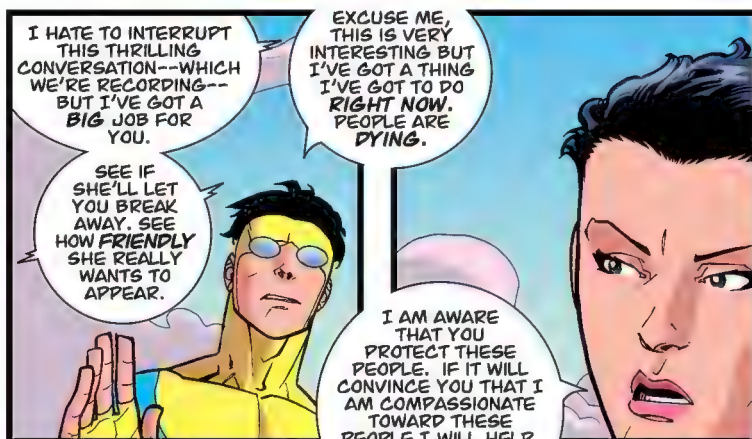
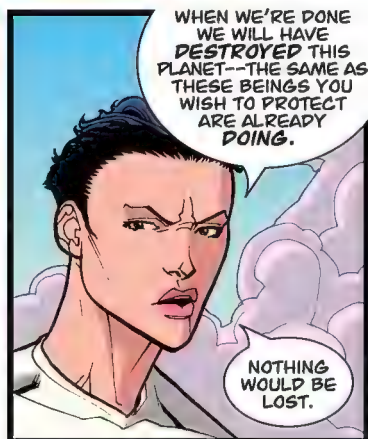
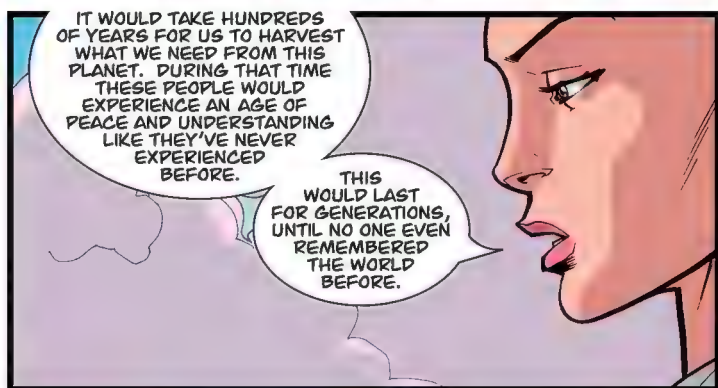
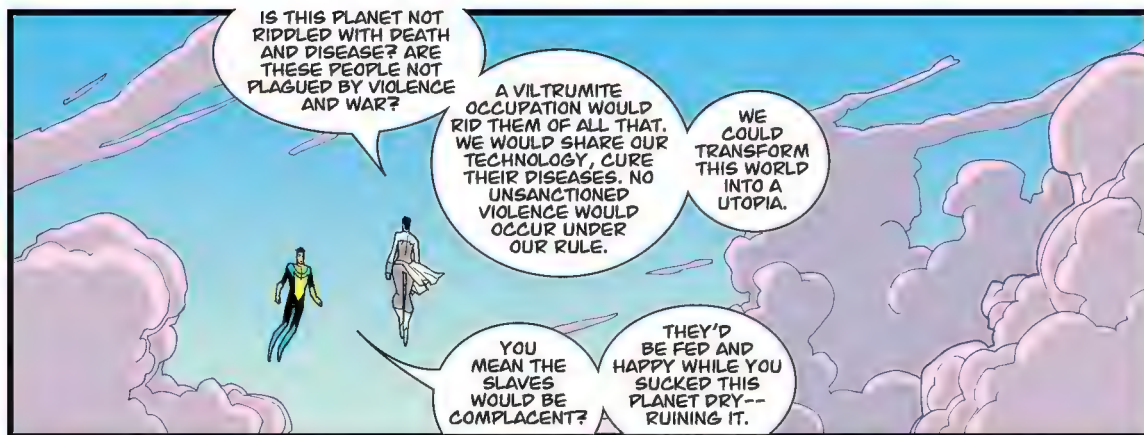
DESPITE WHAT YOU KNOW ABOUT US AND OUR NATURE. YOU ARE MISUNDERSTANDING THE INTENT OF OUR DRIVE TO CONQUER OTHER WORLDS.

WE TAKE OVER, YES, AND WE DO TAKE OUR SHARE OF A PLANET'S NATURAL RESOURCES BUT WE BRING SO MUCH TO THE PLANET IN RETURN.

WE REALLY HAVE A LOT TO OFFER.

LIKE WHAT?!









HOLY  
CRAP.

THE  
MONSTER--I  
CAN HURT  
THE MONSTER,  
RIGHT?





SPLAGG!!









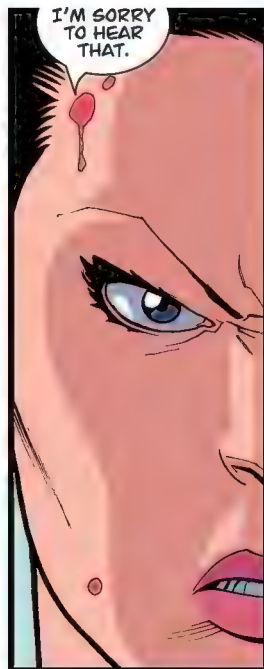
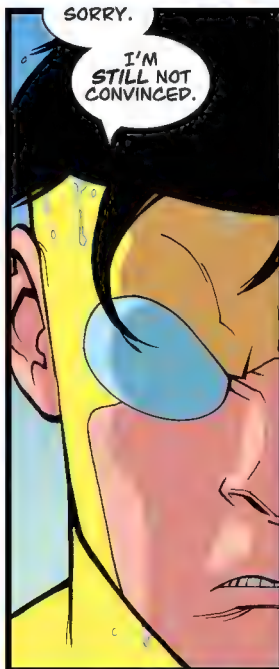
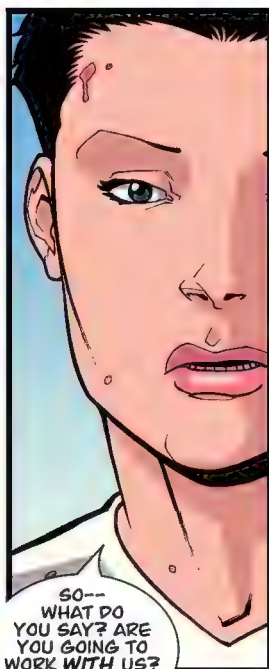
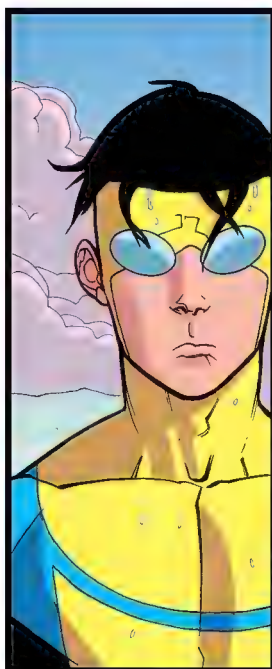
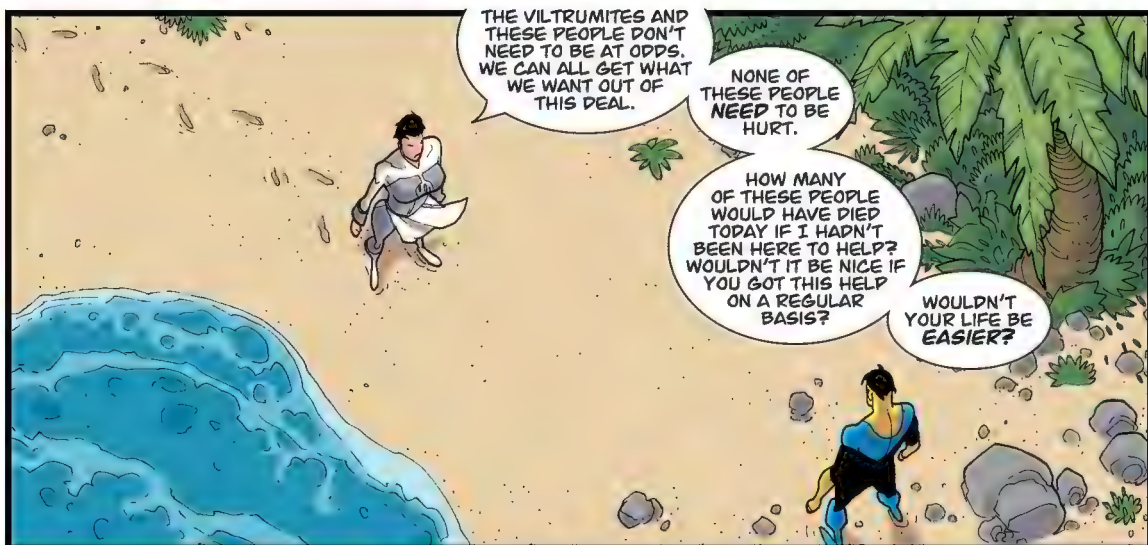
SHUFFLE

SHUFFLE

SHUFFLE

YOU DID  
SOME VERY  
IMPRESSIVE  
WORK  
TODAY.







WHO-KOOM!!!

THIS  
WASN'T A  
NEGOTIATION.





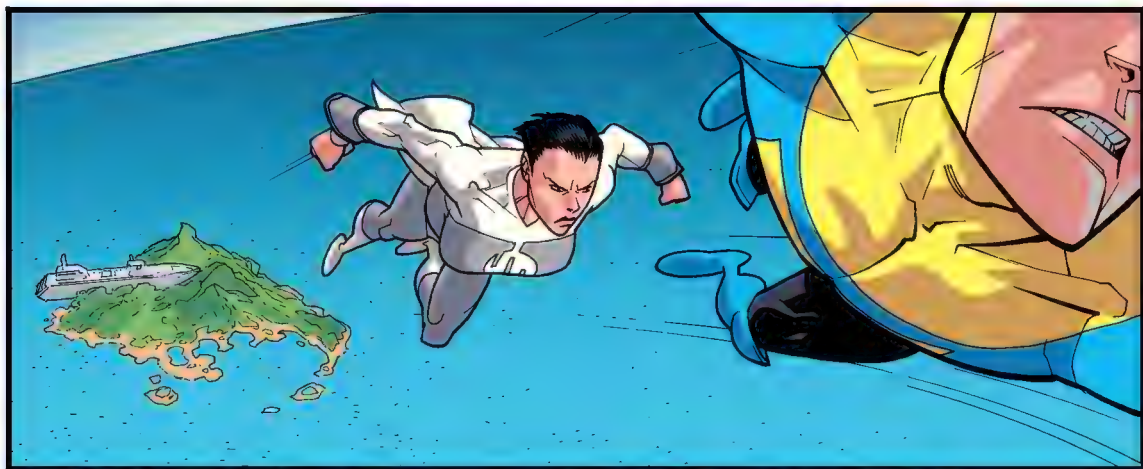
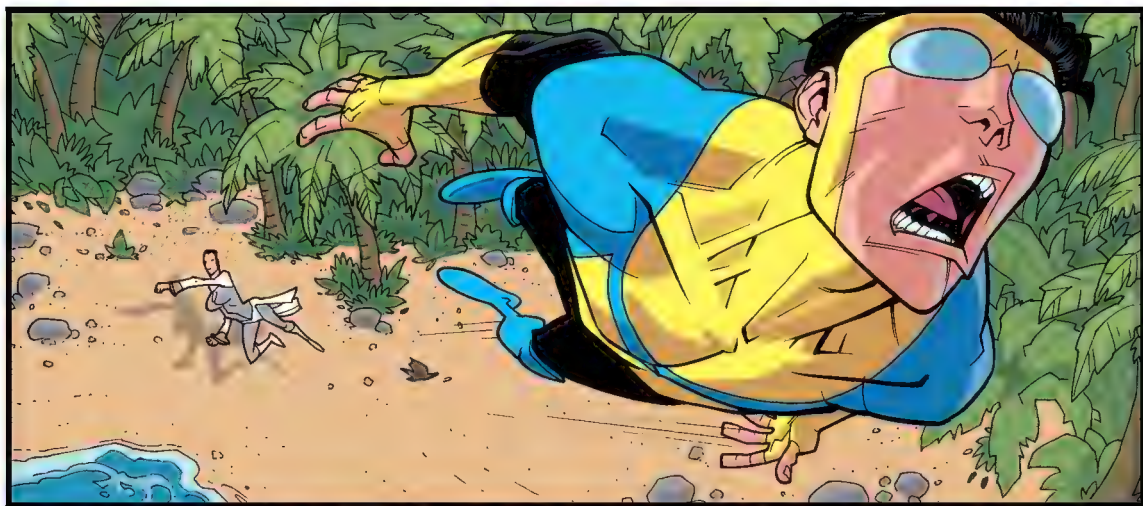




# CHAPTER FOUR

















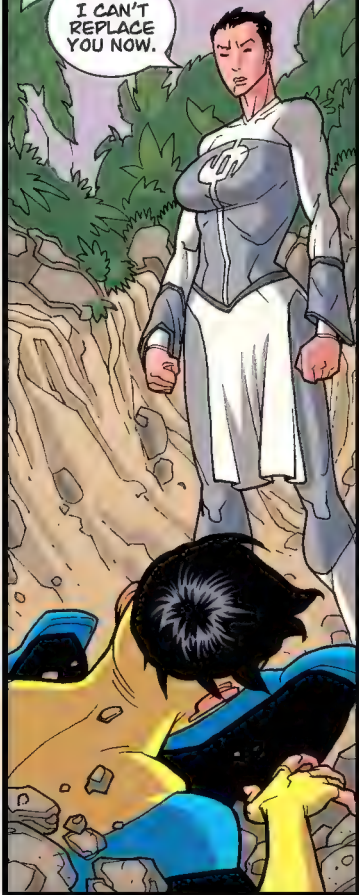


YOU HAVE BEEN APPOINTED THE VILTRUMITE AGENT OF THIS PLANET, CHARGED WITH PREPARING IT FOR EVENTUAL TAKEOVER. THAT IS NOT UP FOR DEBATE.

YOU ARE FREE TO IGNORE YOUR DUTIES BUT THAT WILL BRING CONSEQUENCES.

CURRENTLY OUR RESERVE FORCES ARE OCCUPIED. THIS IS, NO DOUBT, WHY YOU WERE GIVEN THIS ASSIGNMENT TO BEGIN WITH.

SO I CAN'T REPLACE YOU NOW.



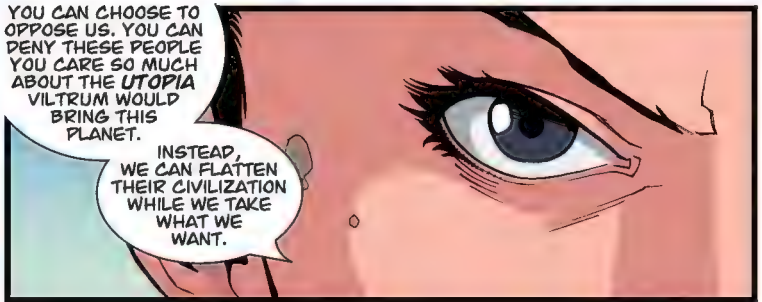
YOU REALLY HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH DANGER YOU'RE IN RIGHT NOW.



THAT'S... DISAPPOINTING.

YOU CAN CHOOSE TO OPPOSE US. YOU CAN DENY THESE PEOPLE YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT THE UTOPIA VILTRUM WOULD BRING THIS PLANET.

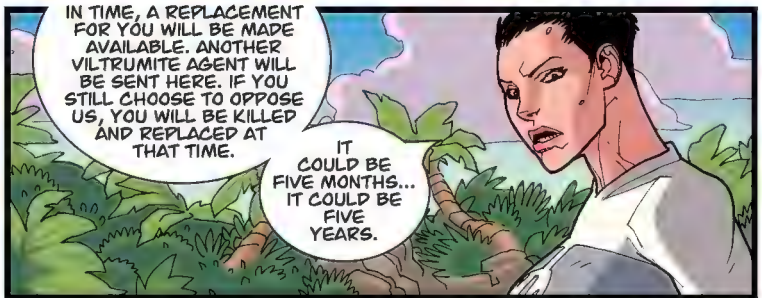
INSTEAD, WE CAN FLATTEN THEIR CIVILIZATION WHILE WE TAKE WHAT WE WANT.



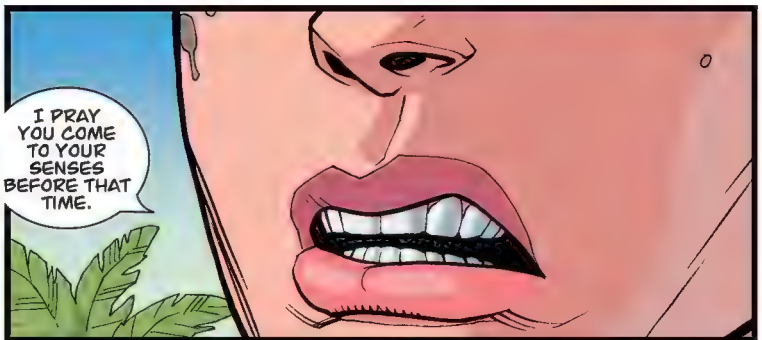
THAT DECISION IS YOURS TO MAKE.

IN TIME, A REPLACEMENT FOR YOU WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE. ANOTHER VILTRUMITE AGENT WILL BE SENT HERE. IF YOU STILL CHOOSE TO OPPOSE US, YOU WILL BE KILLED AND REPLACED AT THAT TIME.

IT COULD BE FIVE MONTHS... IT COULD BE FIVE YEARS.



I PRAY YOU COME TO YOUR SENSES BEFORE THAT TIME.







YEAH,  
THANKS.



LIKE I  
DON'T HAVE  
ENOUGH  
TO WORRY  
ABOUT.



COUGH

COUGH



ARE  
YOU OKAY,  
SIR?

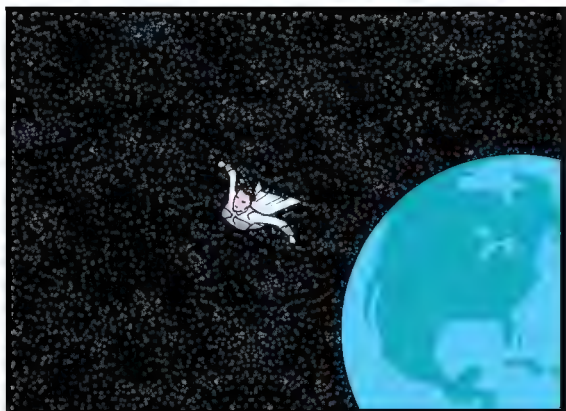


WE WERE  
SENT TO ASSIST  
YOU. DO YOU  
NEED MEDICAL  
ATTENTION?

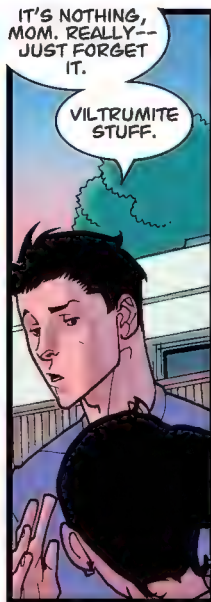
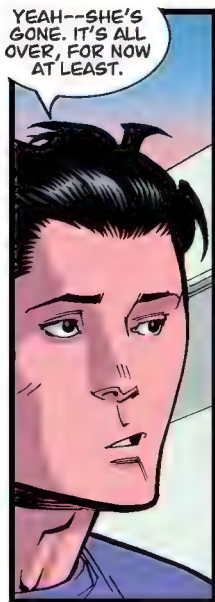
NO--JUST,  
CHECK ON THE  
PEOPLE IN THE  
SHIP, MAKE SURE  
THEY'RE OKAY.  
I'M ALRIGHT,  
I'M--

I'M  
FINE.

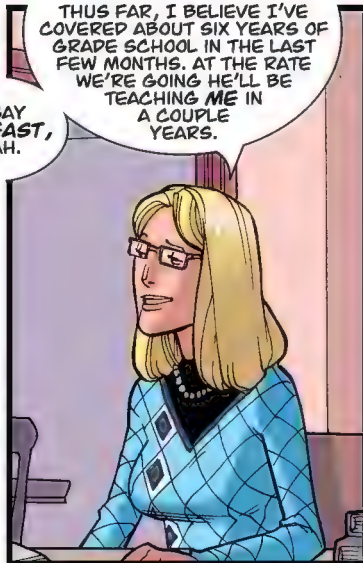
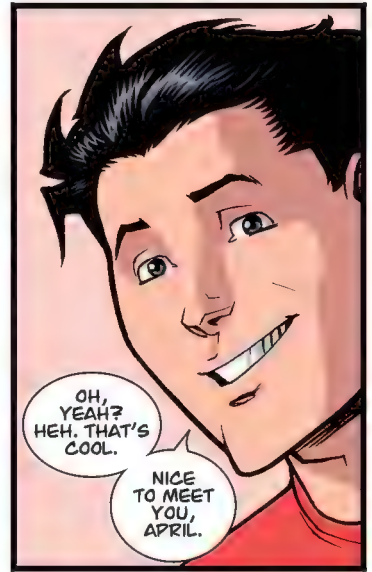
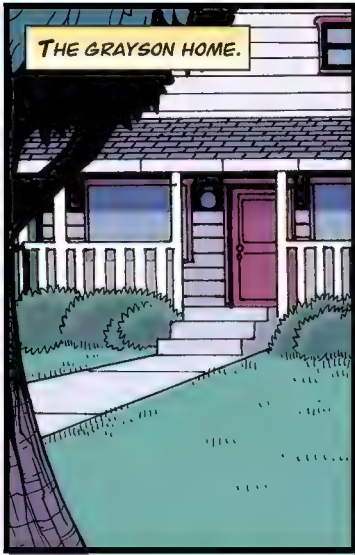
















AT THIS  
RATE I SHOULD  
GET BACK HOME  
IN A FEW DAYS.  
NOT BAD REALLY,  
I'M MAKING  
GOOD TIME.

I WONDER  
HOW TELIA IS  
DOING. I'M SURE  
SHE'S MAD THAT  
I'VE BEEN GONE SO  
LONG. SHE DOESN'T  
REALIZE HOW  
IMPORTANT MY  
MISSIONS  
ARE.



I DO MISS  
HER. I LOVE  
HER VERY  
MUCH.

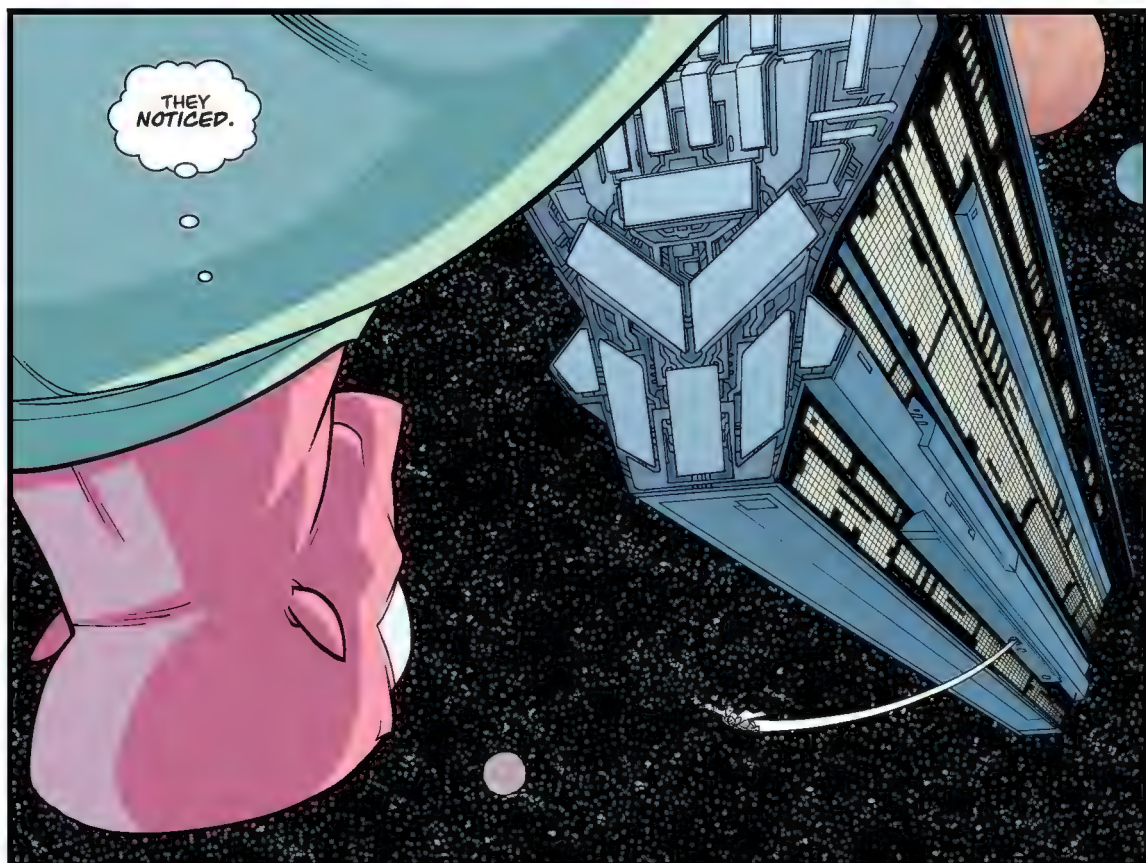
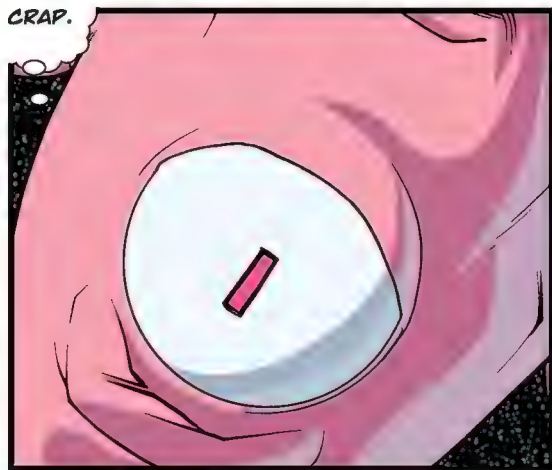
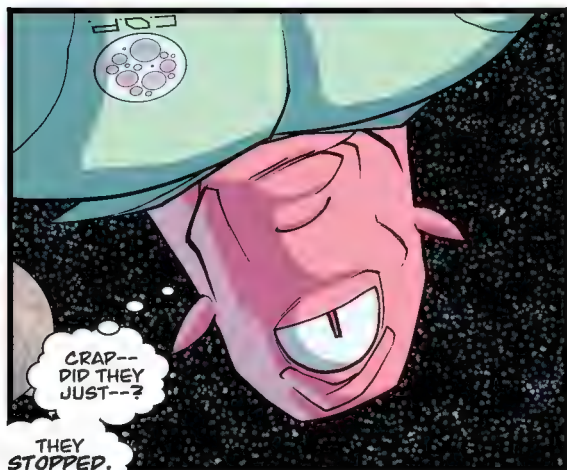
I WISH  
MY PEOPLE  
WOULD ALLOW ME  
TO MARRY HER.  
MAYBE NOW THAT  
MY POWERS HAVE  
BEEN ENHANCED I  
COULD CONVINCE  
THEM TO  
ALLOW IT.

I JUST  
HATE LIVING  
IN SECRET  
SO MUCH.





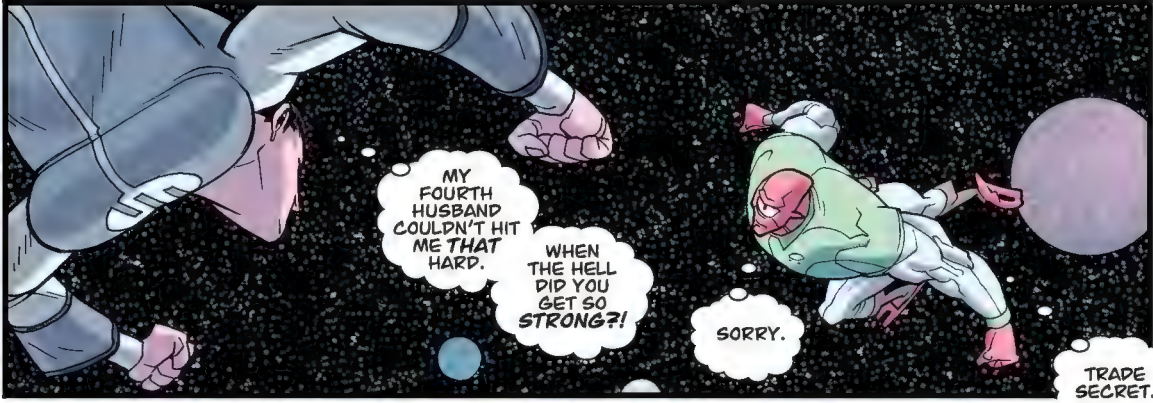
















OUR RECORDS INDICATE  
**ON-SITE EXECUTIONS**  
DON'T STICK WITH YOU.  
WE'LL HAVE TO RESORT TO  
SOMETHING MORE  
**THOROUGH.**

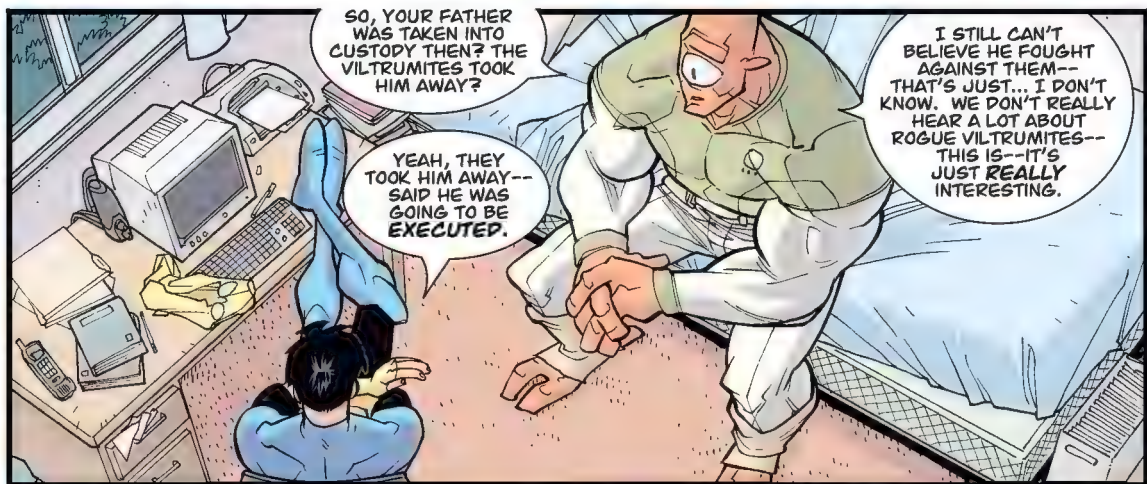
YOU'LL BE  
TAKEN TO OUR  
MAXIMUM SECURITY  
FACILITY--THE SUPER  
PRISON WHERE WE  
HOUSE OUR WORST  
OFFENDERS. IF YOU  
SURVIVE LONG ENOUGH--  
YOU'LL STAND  
TRIAL AND BE  
EXECUTED.

YOU'RE  
ALMOST NOT  
WORTHY OF  
THE HONOR.



PRISON?

REALLY?



SO, YOUR FATHER  
WAS TAKEN INTO  
CUSTODY THEN? THE  
VILTRUMITES TOOK  
HIM AWAY?

YEAH, THEY  
TOOK HIM AWAY--  
SAID HE WAS  
GOING TO BE  
EXECUTED.

I STILL CAN'T  
BELIEVE HE FOUGHT  
AGAINST THEM--  
THAT'S JUST... I DON'T  
KNOW. WE DON'T REALLY  
HEAR A LOT ABOUT  
ROGUE VILTRUMITES--  
THIS IS--IT'S  
JUST REALLY  
INTERESTING.



YOU THINK YOU  
CAN DEFEAT ME--  
THROW ME IN  
PRISON?

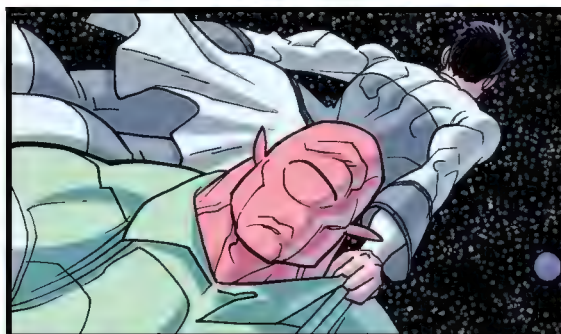
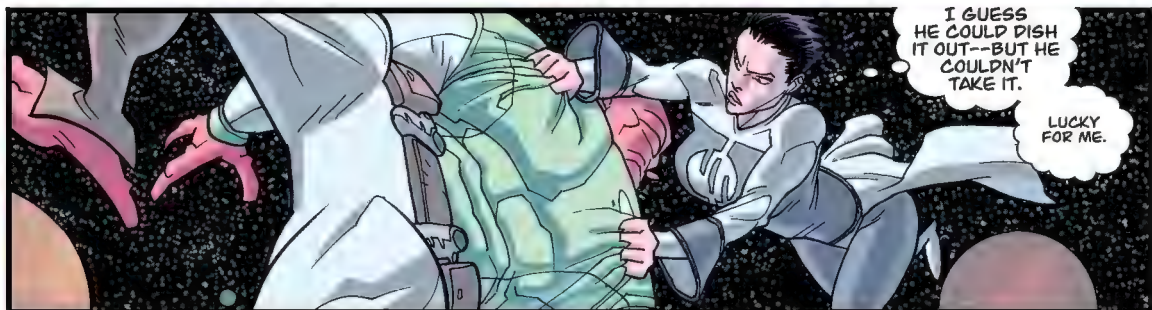
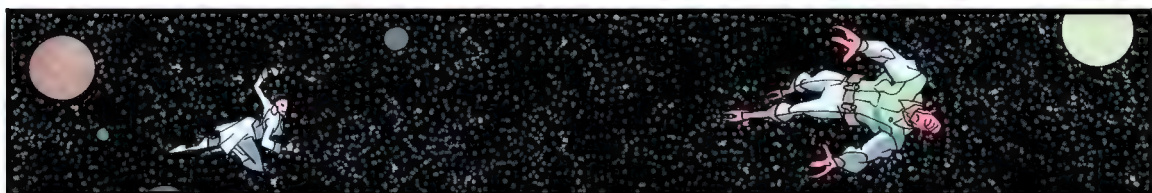
GIVE IT  
YOUR BEST  
SHOT!



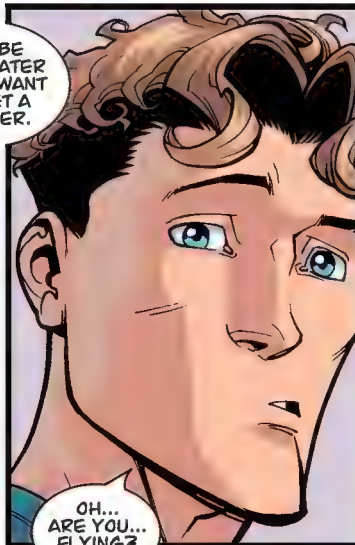
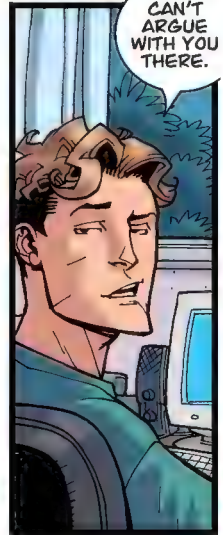
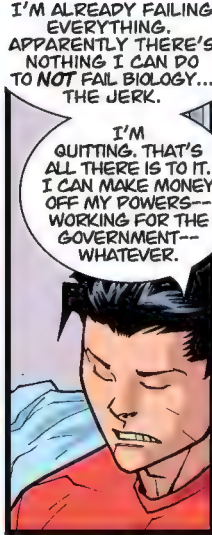
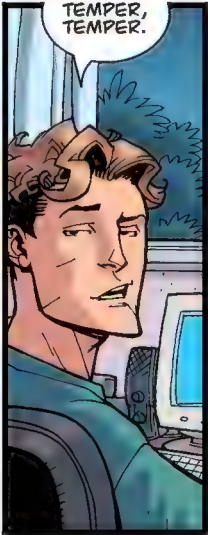
YOU ARE  
A FOOL TO  
TAUNT ME.

I'VE  
KILLED  
BEINGS FOR  
LESS.

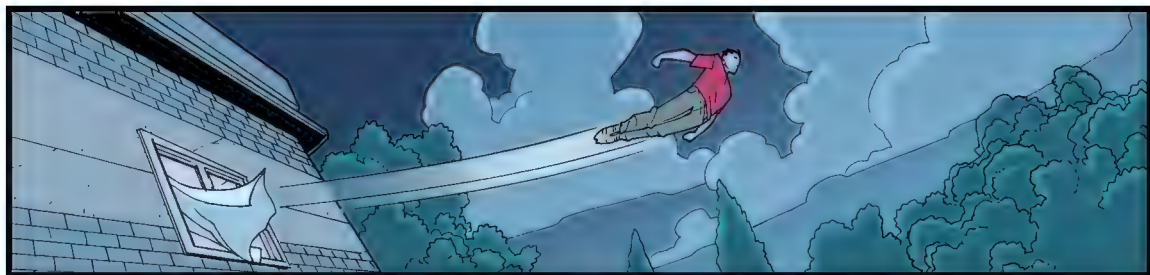












"FIVE YEARS  
OR FIVE  
MONTHS..."

~SIGH~

CRAP.

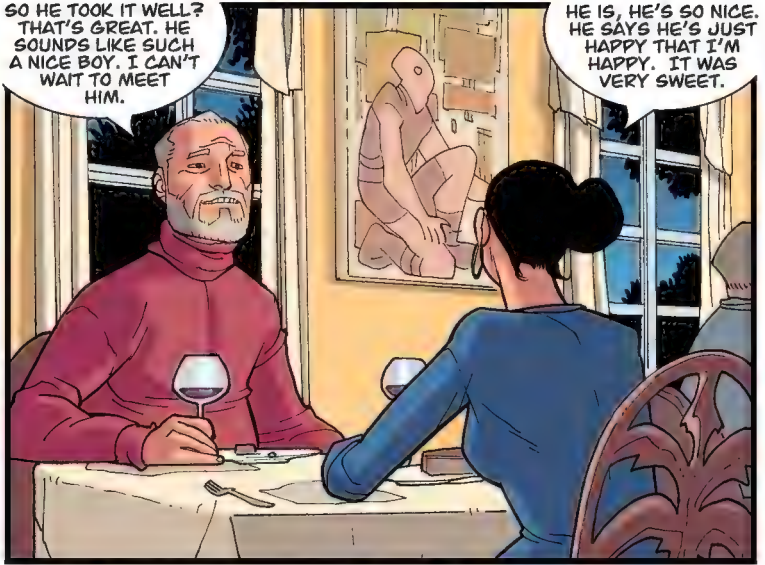
I'M  
GOING TO  
NEED TO START  
WORKING  
OUT MORE.





CROCKETT'S GRILL AND FINE EATERY, WHERE DEBBIE GRAYSON IS ENJOYING A NICE EVENING OUT.

SO HE TOOK IT WELL? THAT'S GREAT. HE SOUNDS LIKE SUCH A NICE BOY. I CAN'T WAIT TO MEET HIM.



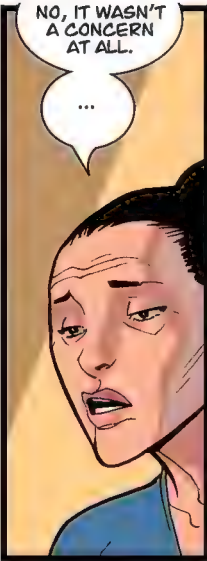
HE IS, HE'S SO NICE. HE SAYS HE'S JUST HAPPY THAT I'M HAPPY. IT WAS VERY SWEET.

HE DIDN'T THINK IT WAS TOO SOON... AFTER YOUR HUSBAND...?



I KNOW THAT WAS YOUR MAIN CONCERN.

NO, IT WASN'T A CONCERN AT ALL.



...

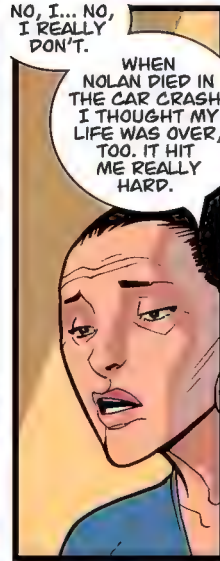
DEBBIE...

...DO YOU THINK IT'S TOO SOON?



NO, I... NO, I REALLY DON'T.

WHEN NOLAN DIED IN THE CAR CRASH, I THOUGHT MY LIFE WAS OVER, TOO. IT HIT ME REALLY HARD.



BUT AS TIME HAS GONE ON, THE THINGS I'VE LEARNED SINCE HIS DEATH...

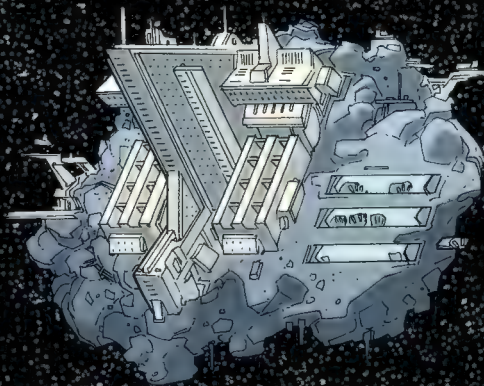
...ABOUT HIM... ABOUT US...



THE THING THAT UPSETS ME THE MOST IS KNOWING THAT HE NEVER REALLY LOVED ME IN THE FIRST PLACE.



VILTRUMITE PRISON,  
EXACT LOCATION  
UNKNOWN.



NOLAN,  
FRIEND. YOU  
SEEM  
TROUBLED.

WHAT  
IS IT THAT  
TROUBLES  
YOU SO?



MY SPINE IS HEALING,  
I'M CLOSER TO  
PERFECTION EVERY DAY.  
ONCE I AM WORTHY  
OF EXECUTION MY  
LIFE WILL BE  
TAKEN.

IS THAT  
NOT REASON  
ENOUGH  
FOR MY  
MOOD?



WE HAVE SHARED  
THIS CELL FOR SOME  
TIME NOW AND THAT  
IS SOMETHING YOU  
HAVE ALWAYS KNOWN.  
TODAY IS  
DIFFERENT.

IT IS  
OBVIOUS TO  
ME THAT THIS  
IS SOMETHING  
NEW THAT  
TROUBLES  
YOU.



I--







I THINK  
I MISS MY  
WIFE.



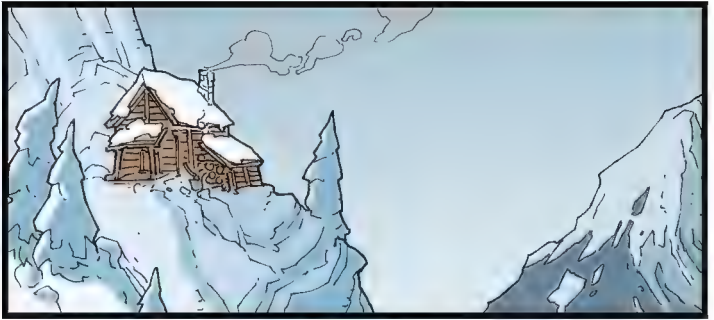




# CHAPTER FIVE











I'M  
SORRY I  
NEVER TOLD  
YOU. I  
NEVER TOLD  
ANYONE.

I HAD A  
CLOSE CALL  
ONCE--DECIDED  
THEN AND THERE I'D  
ALWAYS LIVE LIFE  
THROUGH A COPY,  
NEVER LEAVING MYSELF  
EXPOSED. ALL MY COPIES  
SHARE THE SAME  
CONSCIOUSNESS, ALL  
PART OF THE SAME  
PERSON--IT'S HARD  
TO EXPLAIN.

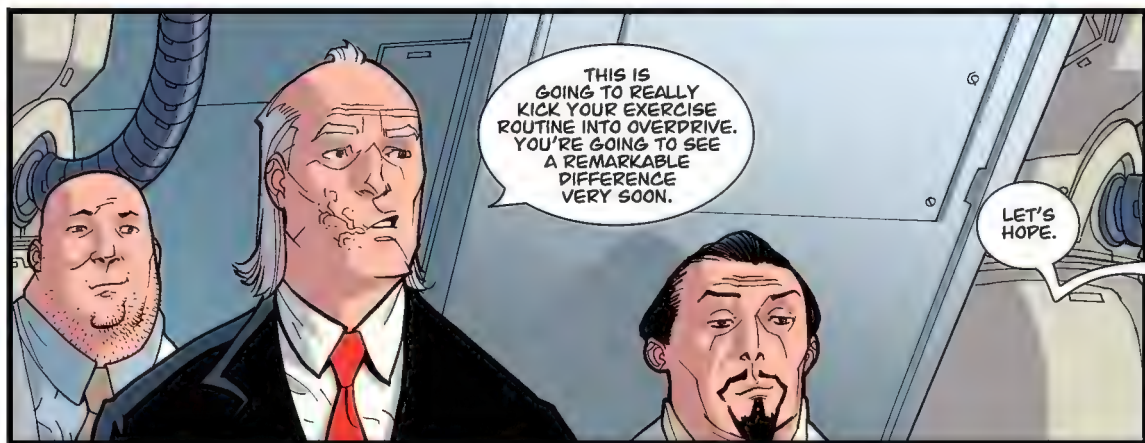
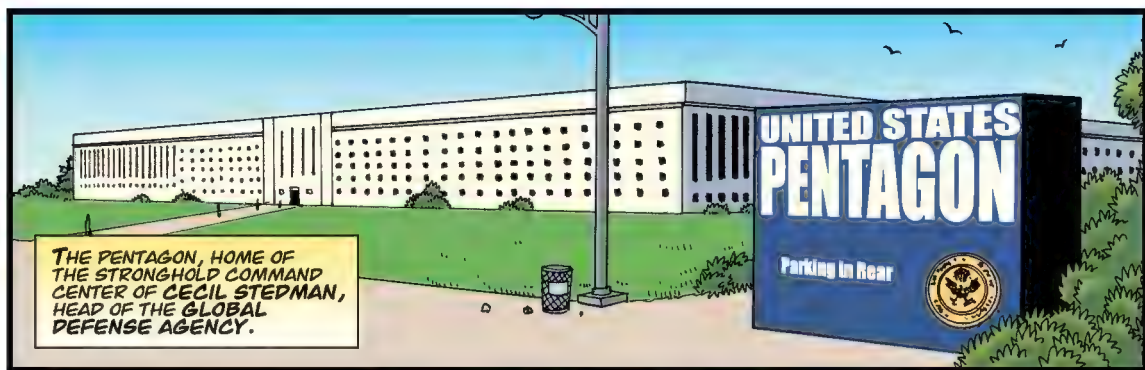
BUT I  
TRUST YOU NOW...  
AND I'M SORRY I  
PUT YOU THROUGH  
WHAT I DID. IT TOOK  
ME A LONG TIME TO  
GET OUT OF MY  
SANCTUARY.



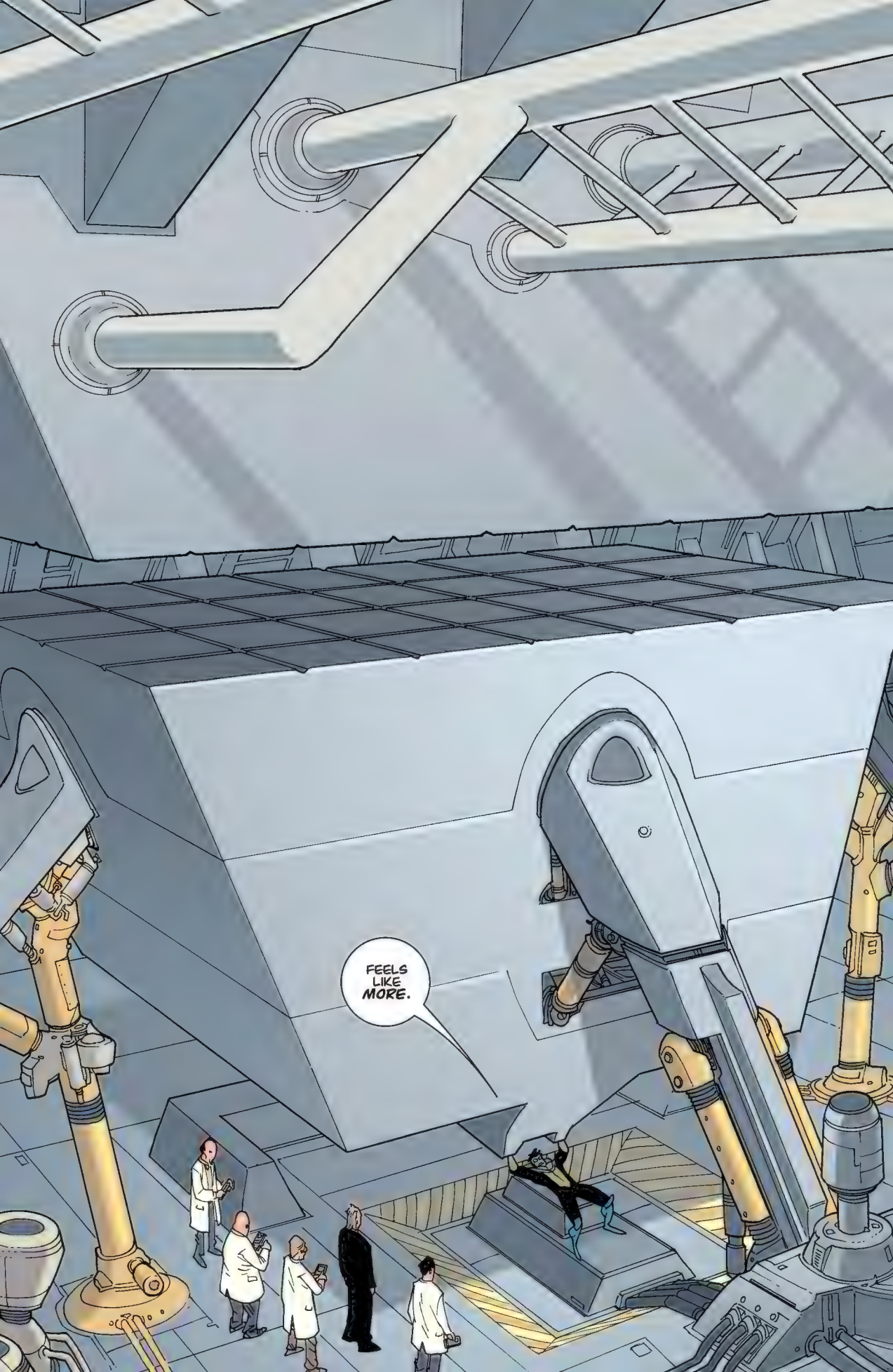
I NEED  
YOUR  
HELP.

WE'VE  
GOT TO STOP  
MY BROTHER  
BEFORE HE DOES  
SOMETHING  
STUPID.









FEELS  
LIKE  
MORE.





THIS IS GREAT THOUGH--I CAN FEEL IT WORKING.



I CAN FEEL MYSELF GETTING STRONGER--I DON'T KNOW HOW QUICKLY IT ACTUALLY WORKS, IT MAY ALL BE IN MY HEAD, BUT THE MORE I LIFT THAT THING--THE EASIER IT GETS.

A FEW HOURS ON THIS THING EVERY DAY--AND I'LL BE READY WHEN THE VILTRUMITES COME TO EARTH.

THAT'S THE PLAN--LET'S HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT.

I THINK IT ALL JUST DEPENDS ON TIME. HOW LONG IT TAKES THE VILTRUMITE AGENT TO GET HERE, HOW MUCH TIME I'LL HAVE TO SPEND WORKING OUT, HOW MUCH TIME IT'LL TAKE TO GET MY STRENGTH LEVELS UP TO THEIR FULL LIMIT--WHATEVER THAT IS.



AS LONG AS I'VE GOT THE TIME--THIS SHOULD BE A PIECE OF CAKE.



LUCKILY, IF THERE WERE A FULL-SCALE INVASION OF EARTH, YOU WOULDN'T BE ALONE.

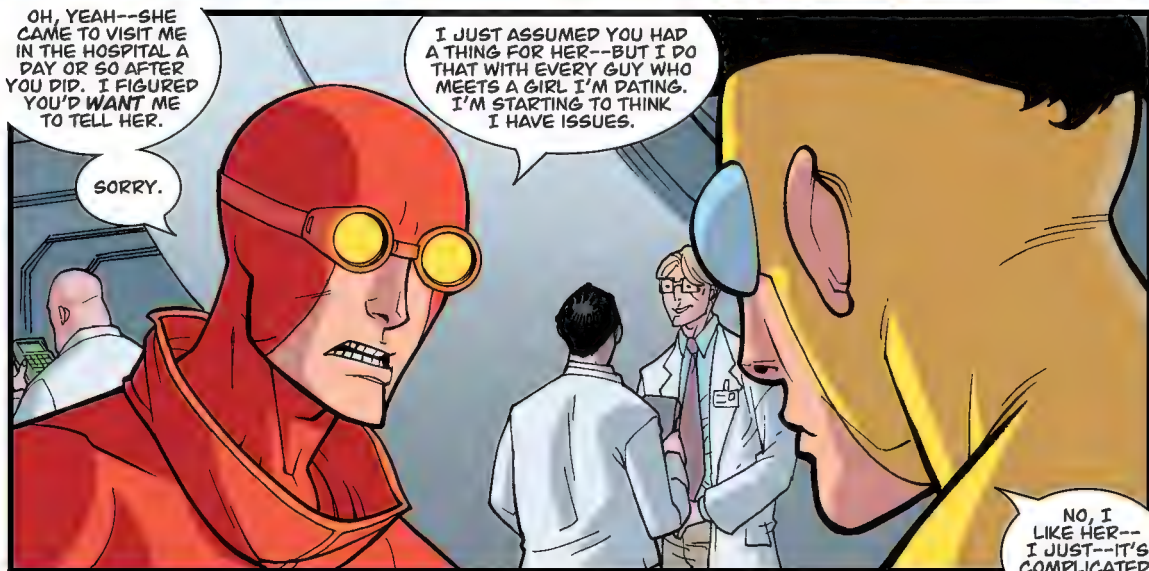
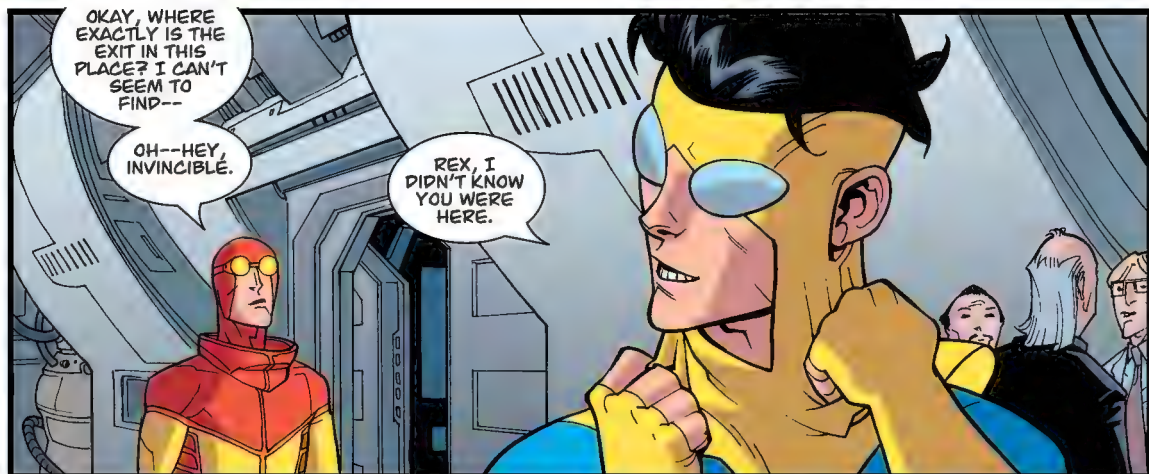
WE'VE GOT THAT GOING FOR US, AND THE FACT THAT WE KNOW THEY'RE COMING... EVENTUALLY. THAT WAS A FOOLISH MOVE ON THEIR PART.



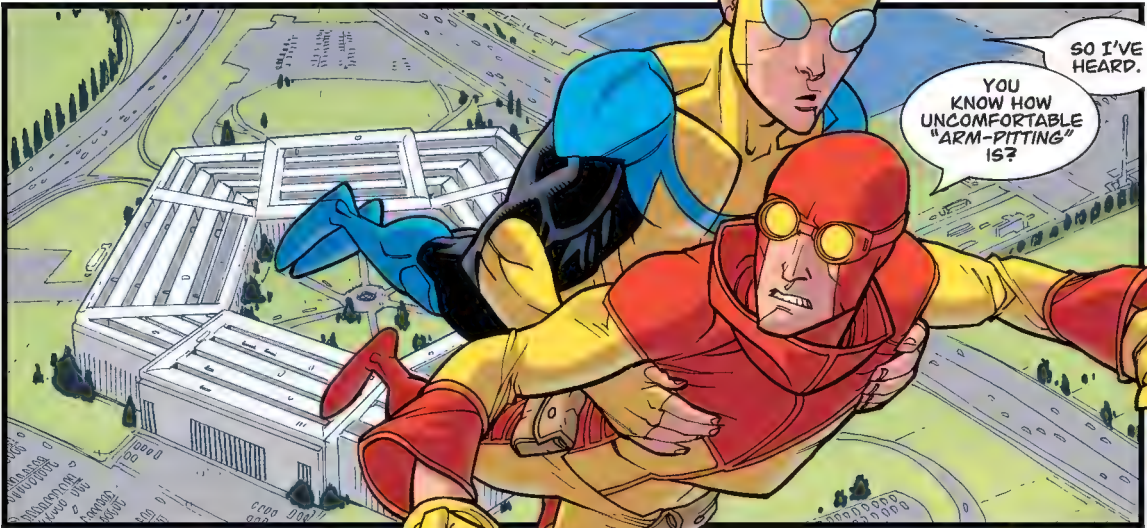
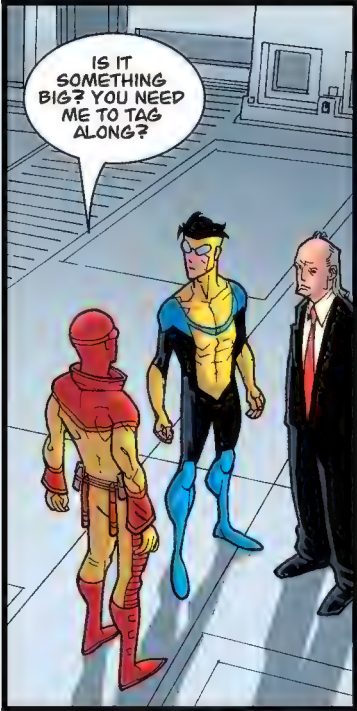
YEAH--THEY'RE PRETTY ARROGANT.

I DON'T THINK THEY'VE EVEN CONSIDERED THE POSSIBILITY WE COULD BEAT THEM.











ACROSS TOWN--  
THE SMITHSONIAN.

QUICK,  
QUICK, QUICK--  
WE GOTTA GET  
AWAY FROM  
THESE GOONS  
AND GET ON  
THE MOVE.

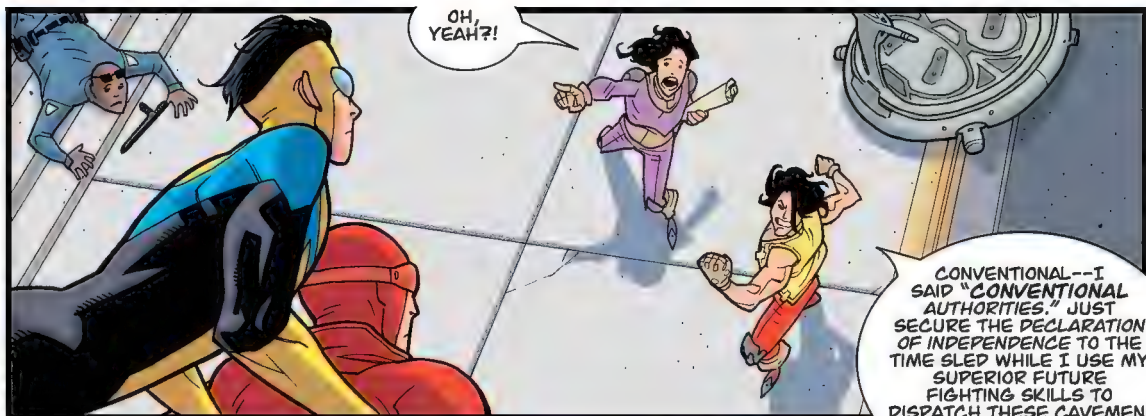
C'MON,  
**FIGHTMASTER**,  
I'M SERIOUS! GET IN,  
GET OUT--THAT WAS  
THE PLAN. WE CAN'T  
RISK BEING DETECTED  
HERE, WE'VE GOT  
TO PRESERVE THE  
TIMELINE!

**DROP KICK,**  
PLEASE--CALM  
DOWN. I KNOW WHAT  
I'M DOING. IT'LL BE  
AT LEAST TWO POINT  
NINE MORE MINUTES  
BEFORE THE CONVENTIONAL  
AUTHORITIES OF THIS  
TIME PERIOD  
RESPOND.



OH,  
YEAH?!

CONVENTIONAL--I  
SAID "CONVENTIONAL  
AUTHORITIES," JUST  
SECURE THE DECLARATION  
OF INDEPENDENCE TO THE  
TIME SLED WHILE I USE MY  
SUPERIOR FUTURE  
FIGHTING SKILLS TO  
DISPATCH THESE CAVEMEN!





SO AM I GATHERING THAT YOU'RE NOT GETTING TOGETHER WITH EVE? BECAUSE I'VE BEEN WITH EVE--AND IF I THOUGHT I COULD PATCH THINGS UP BETWEEN US, I WOULD.

SHE'S AWESOME!

LOOK, I--TALKING ABOUT THIS WITH YOU IS WEIRD. YOU GUYS DATED FOR HOW LONG?

OH, FAST.

THREE YEARS... ALMOST. WE WERE CRIME-FIGHTING PARTNERS FOR A LITTLE BIT BEFORE WE DATED--BUT I USUALLY COUNT THAT TIME.

TRUST ME, THOUGH--SHE HATES ME NOW. WE'RE COMPLETELY AND UTTERLY THROUGH. I BLEW IT.

KRAK!

SO NOW'S YOUR CHANCE, DUDE!

KROOM!

I DON'T KNOW, MAN-- I MAY HAVE BLOWN IT, TOO. I APPRECIATE THE SUPPORT BUT I JUST DON'T THINK IT'S GOING TO WORK OUT.

MAN, YOU'RE FAST!

WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL--YOU LIKE HER, SHE LIKES YOU... YOU WANT TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN, RIGHT?

BY THE WAY, MINE'S DOWN--MISTER "I DON'T NEED REX'S HELP."

I DO--I'VE JUST GOT A LOT GOING ON RIGHT NOW--LIKE THIS FIGHT, FOR INSTANCE.

I'VE GOT TO HOLD BACK, I DON'T WANT TO KILL THIS GUY, AND I CAN'T MOVE AS FAST WHEN I HOLD BACK.

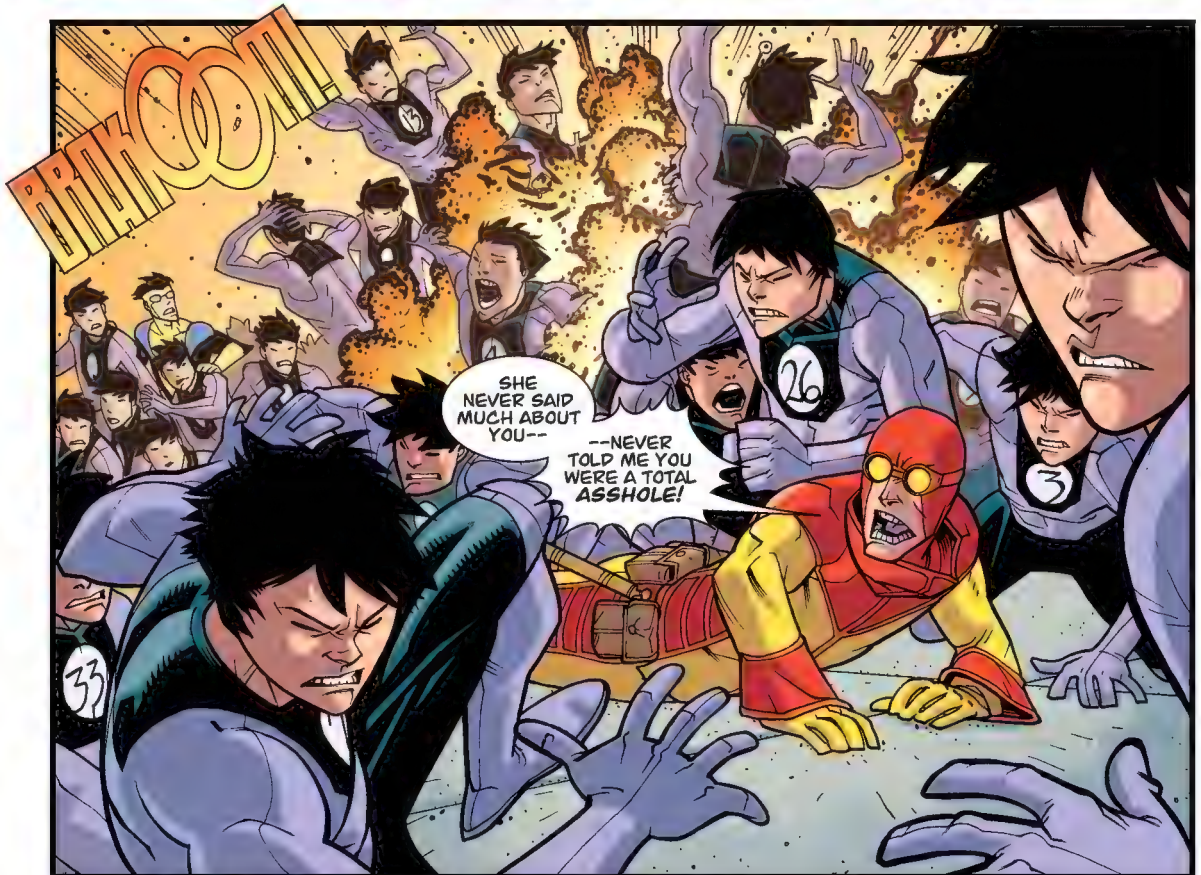
HOW POWERFUL WAS THAT EXPLOSION-- YOURS IS STILL ALIVE, RIGHT?

WHUPP!

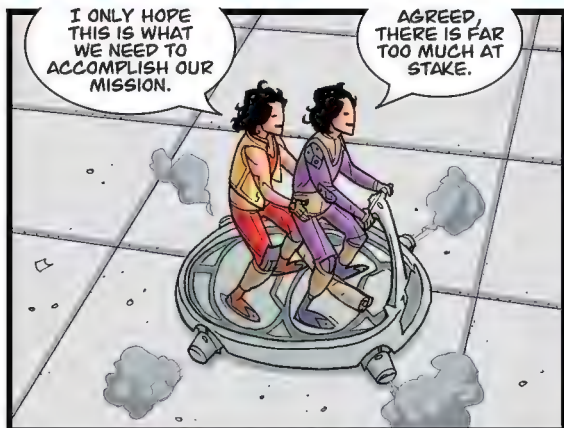
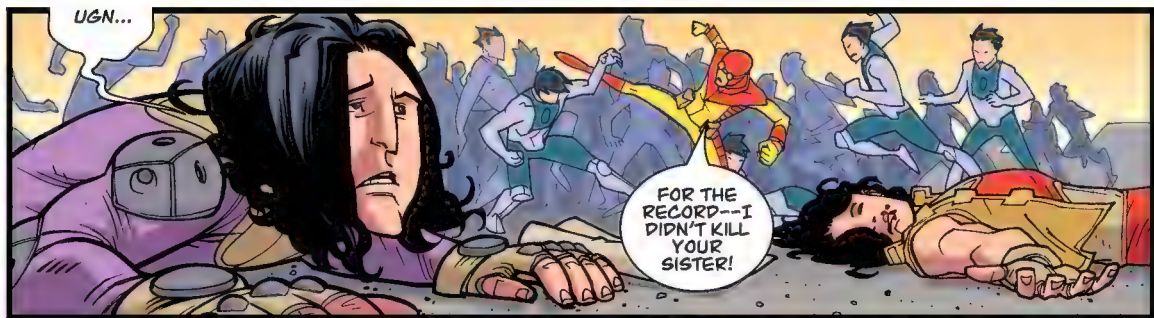




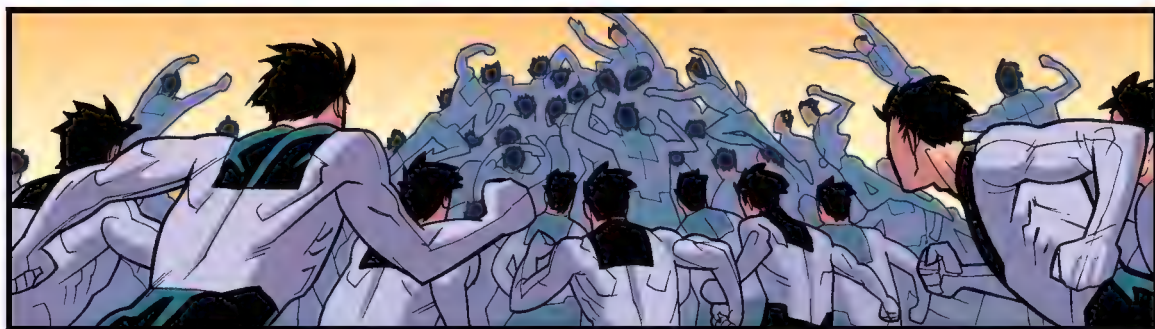








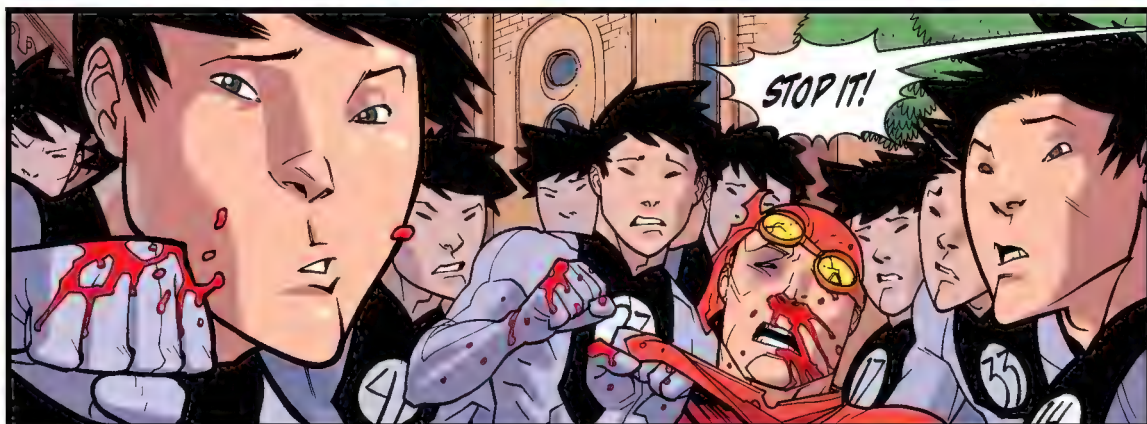
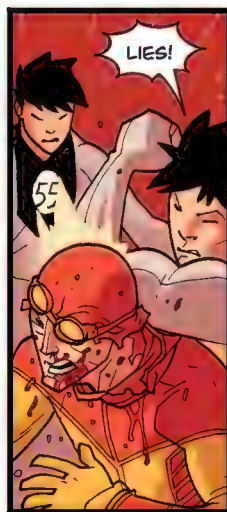
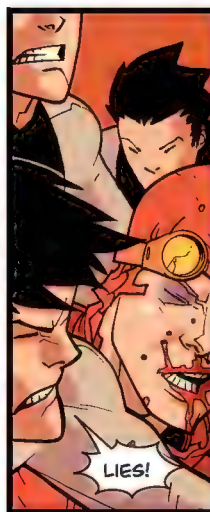
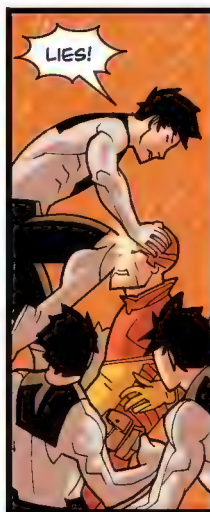
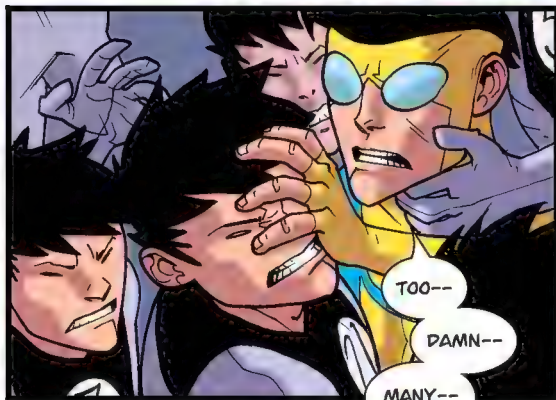














WHAT  
THE HELL,  
PAUL?!

HAVE YOU  
GONE **CRAZY**?  
STOP THIS--THESE  
ARE MY FRIENDS.  
YOU'RE ACTING LIKE  
A MANIAC.



SHE'S  
ALIVE.



NEW  
COSTUME--  
NICE.



TALK TO ME,  
PAUL. THIS  
ISN'T LIKE  
YOU.

I LOST  
YOU, SISTER.  
I HADN'T SEEN  
YOU IN SO LONG,  
BECAUSE OF MY...  
WORK. I FELT  
SO GUILTY WHEN  
I'D HEARD  
YOU'D DIED.

I DIDN'T KNOW IF YOU'D  
TAKEN MY ADVICE AND  
HIDDEN YOUR **ZERO** TO  
ONLY LIVE THROUGH  
YOUR ONE... I'D HOPED  
YOU HAD, BUT SO MUCH  
TIME HAD PASSED  
AFTER YOUR  
DEATH...

YOU KNOW I NEVER  
LIKED THIS REX PERSON...  
FROM WHAT YOU WROTE  
TO ME, HE IS A HORRIBLE  
PERSON. I STILL DON'T  
BELIEVE HE HAD NO  
INVOLVEMENT WITH  
YOUR DEATHS.  
I DON'T TRUST  
HIM.

HEY!





SHE CAN TELL YOU--  
RIGHT NOW, TELL HIM,  
KATE. I DIDN'T HAVE  
ANYTHING TO DO WITH  
KILLING YOU.

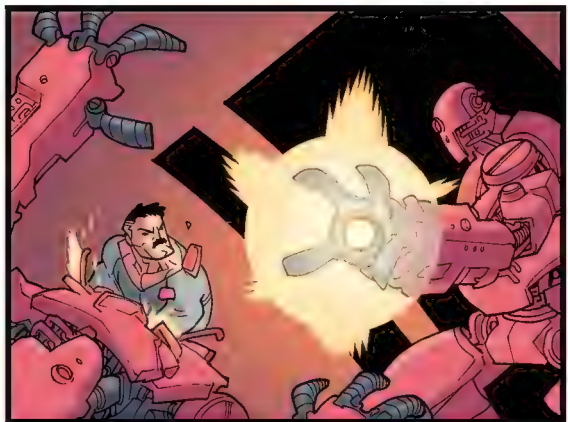
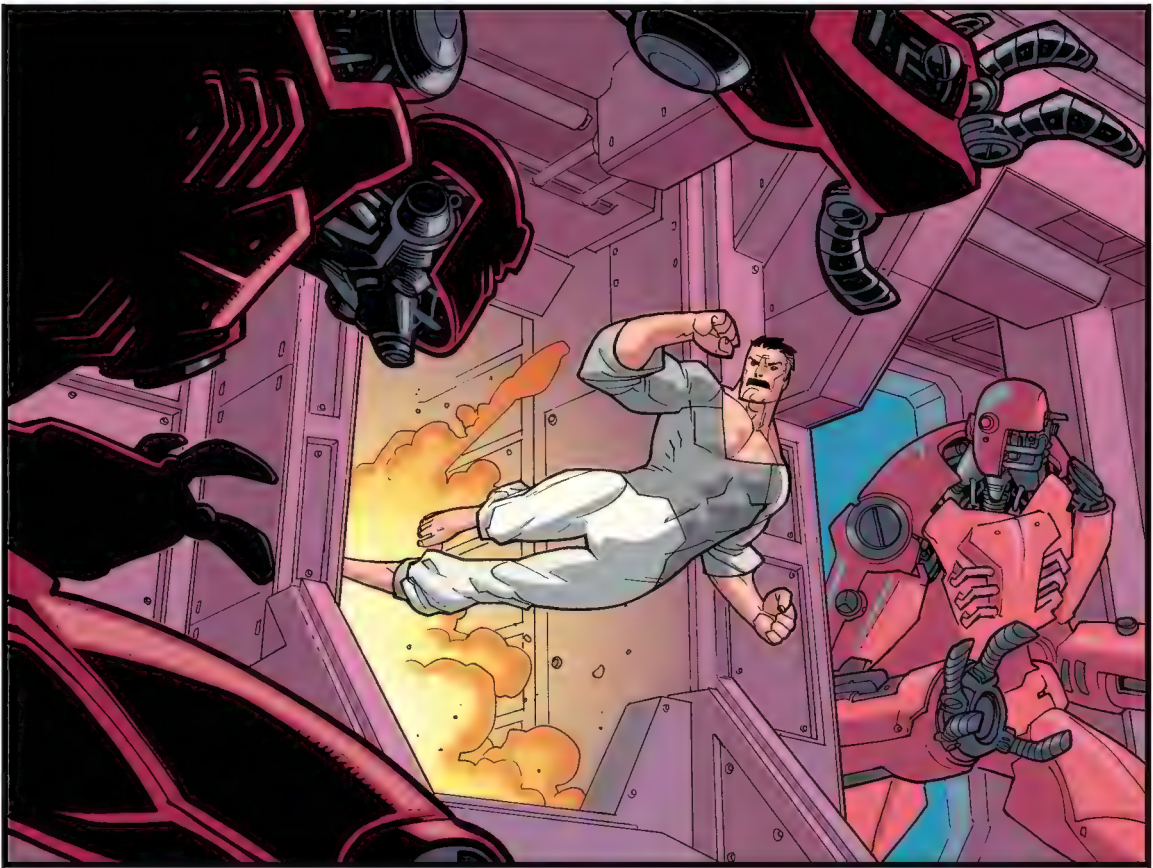
TELL  
HIM!

DON'T SPEAK TO  
HER THAT WAY!  
I'LL FINISH WHAT  
I STARTED--

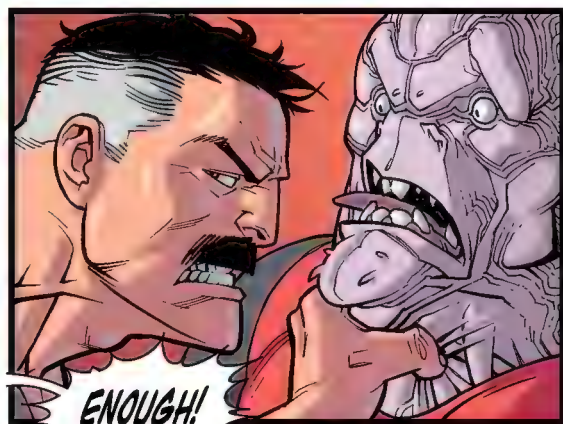
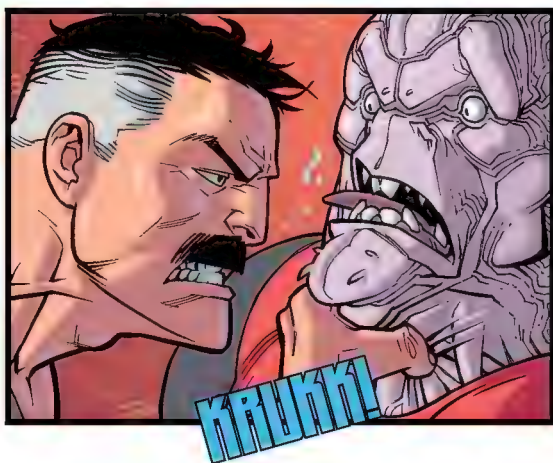
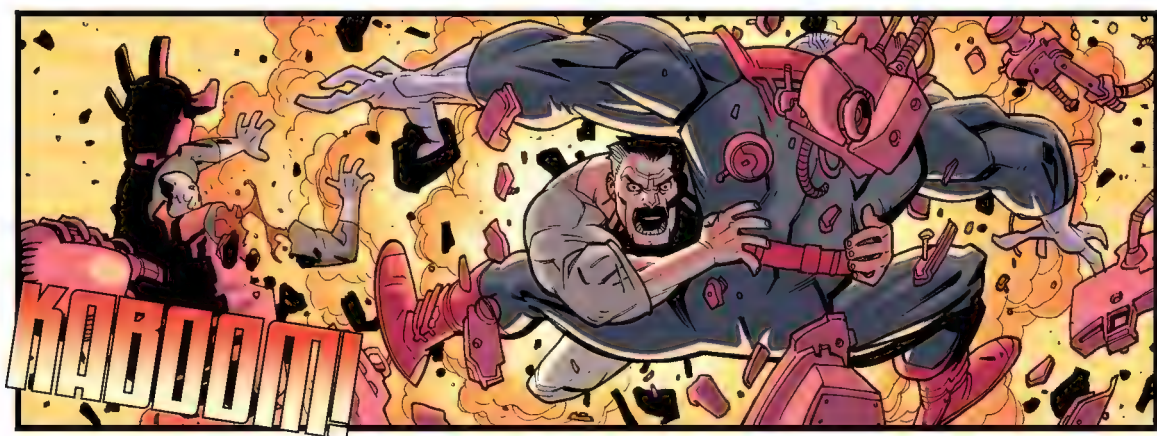
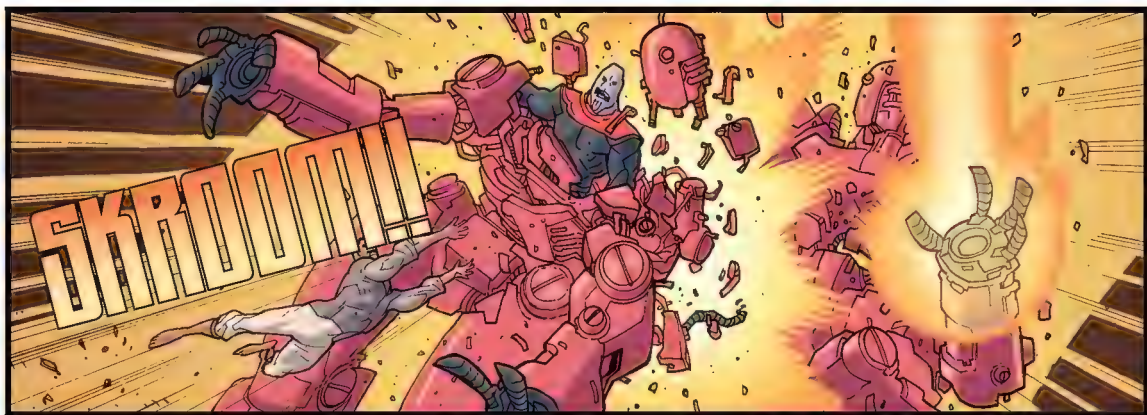
PAUL,  
STOP IT.  
THIS ISN'T  
THE TIME  
FOR--















THAT WILL  
BE QUITE  
ENOUGH.



GENERAL KREGG,  
I DIDN'T EXPECT  
YOU TO COME DOWN  
HERE YOURSELF...  
I'M IMPRESSED.



YOU KNOW  
I WOULDN'T  
MISS THIS.

YOU  
FLATTER  
ME.



I'VE BEEN  
WATCHING YOUR  
SESSION FROM THE  
OBSERVATION DECK.  
YOU'LL BE HAPPY  
TO KNOW YOU'VE  
PASSED  
INSPECTION.

YOUR  
EXECUTION  
IS BEING  
SCHEDULED  
NOW.

...YOU'LL  
BE PUT TO  
**DEATH!**

IT'S ONLY  
A MATTER OF  
TIME, NOW. SOON,  
VERY SOON, FOR THE  
DISGRACE YOU'VE  
CAUSED US...







# CHAPTER SIX





VILTRUMITE PRISON,  
EXACT LOCATION  
UNKNOWN.

THE COUNCIL STATES THAT  
IN ORDER FOR A VILTRUMITE  
TO BE EXECUTED... HE MUST  
BE COMPLETELY WHOLE AND  
INTACT, WORTHY TO  
STAND AND FACE THE END  
OF HIS LIFE AT FULL  
STRENGTH.

BUT  
THEY SAID  
NOTHING OF  
BRUISES.

TAKE  
HIM BACK  
TO HIS  
CELL.

YES,  
OFFICER  
KREGG, AT  
ONCE.

NO--

SIR, PLEASE. MY  
FATHER USED TO  
TELL STORIES OF  
YOUR ADVENTURES  
BEFORE MY  
ENLISTMENT.

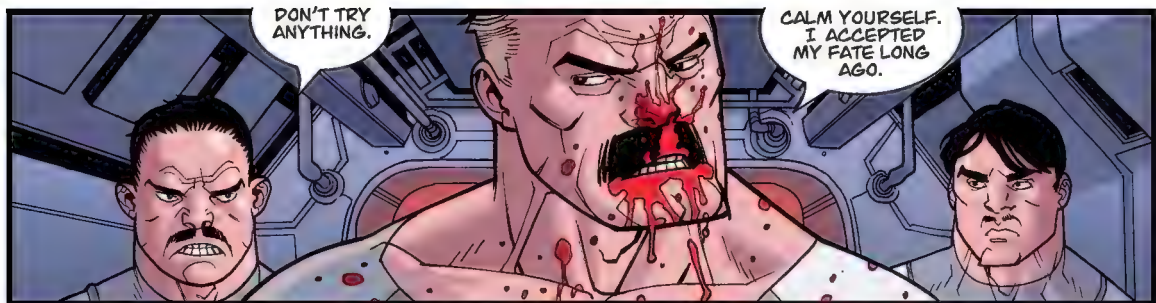
WHEN I  
HEARD YOU  
WENT ROGUE--  
I REFUSED TO  
BELIEVE IT.  
THIS IS HARD  
ENOUGH ALREADY,  
DON'T MAKE  
ME HAVE TO  
HURT YOU.

I JUST  
WISHED TO  
STAND.

I'LL  
WALK OUT  
OF HERE  
ON MY  
OWN.

WAIT.





DON'T TRY ANYTHING.

CALM YOURSELF. I ACCEPTED MY FATE LONG AGO.

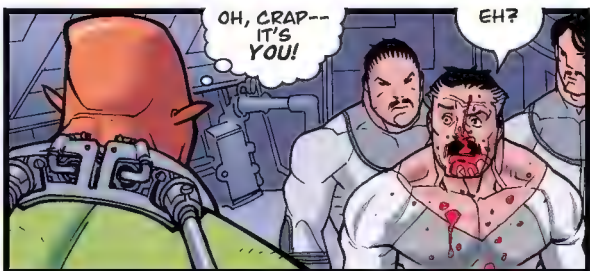


MOVE, SCUM!

MAN, YOU SURE ARE PUSHY. IT'S HARD TO WALK WITH YOUR LEGS TIED TOGETHER--

JERK.

MAYBE I SHOULD--

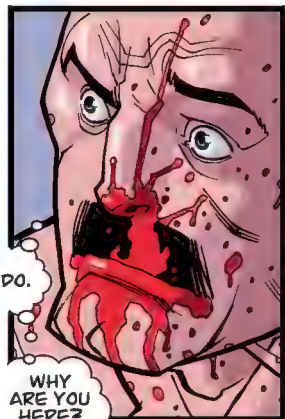


OH, CRAP-- IT'S YOU!

EH?

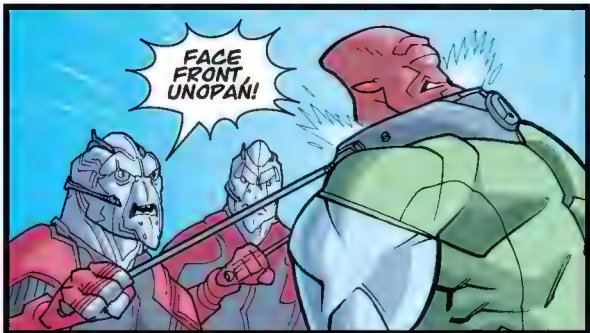


DON'T YOU REMEMBER ME?



I DO.

WHY ARE YOU HERE?



FACE FRONT UNOPAN!



WE'LL TALK LATER.

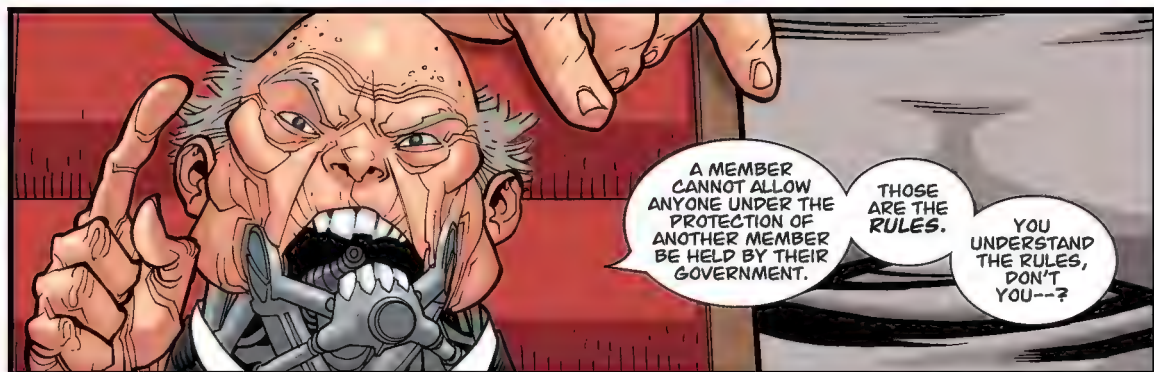


BACK ON EARTH.

THIS IS UNACCEPTABLE! MULTI-PAUL WAS A DIRECT AGENT OF MY ORGANIZATION. THE FACT THAT HE IS INCARCERATED HERE ON AMERICAN SOIL IS A TRAVESTY!

AN INSULT!

YOUR PREDECESSOR KNEW WHAT IT MEANT TO BE A MEMBER OF THE ORDER. THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS THAT JUST AREN'T DONE.



A MEMBER CANNOT ALLOW ANYONE UNDER THE PROTECTION OF ANOTHER MEMBER BE HELD BY THEIR GOVERNMENT.

THOSE ARE THE RULES.

YOU UNDERSTAND THE RULES, DON'T YOU--?

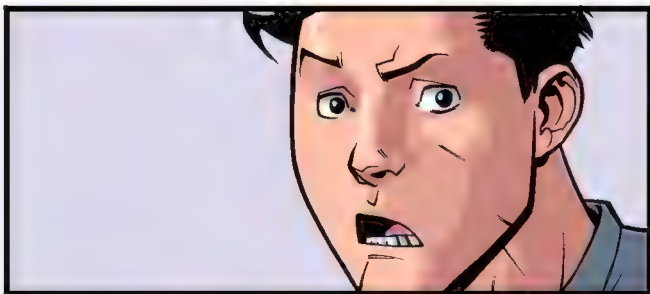
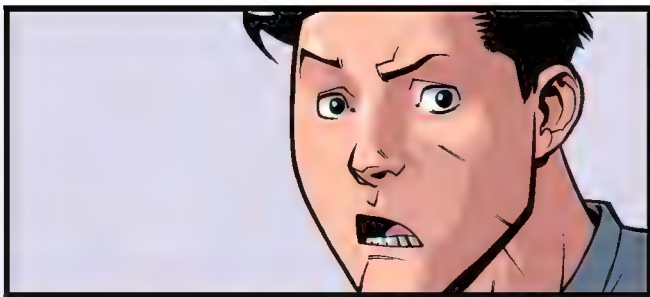




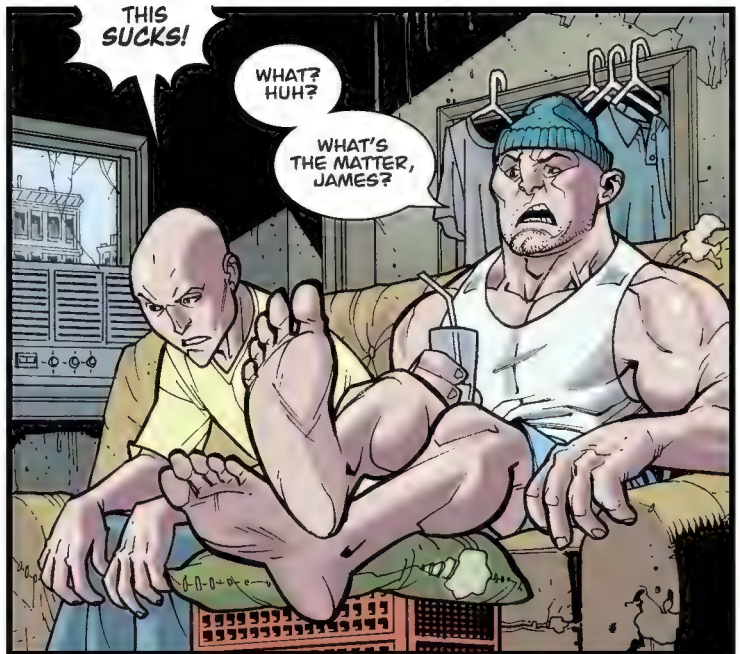




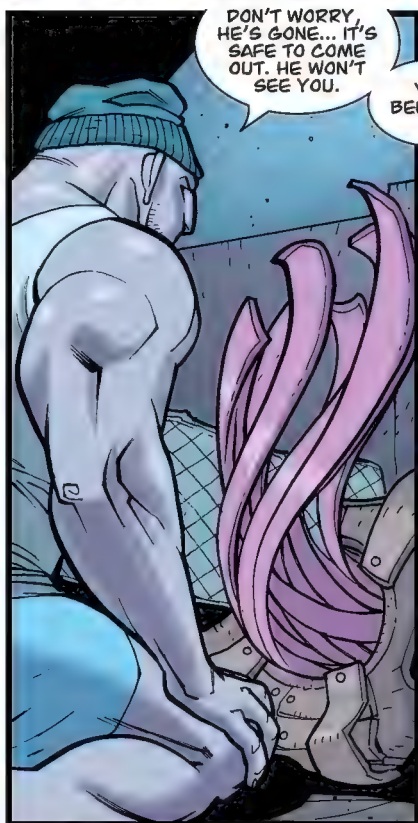
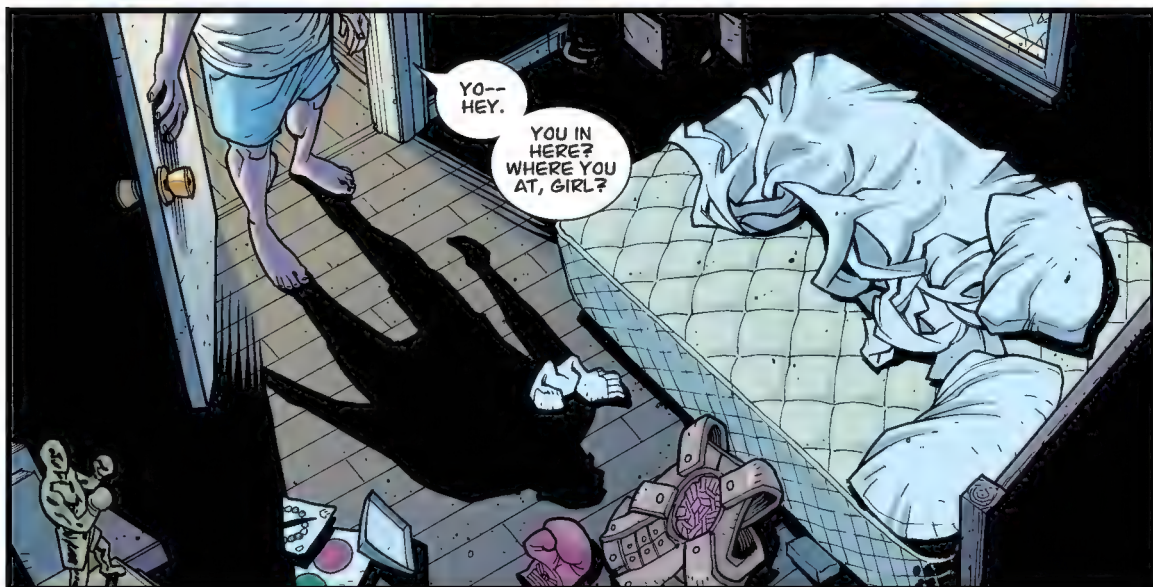
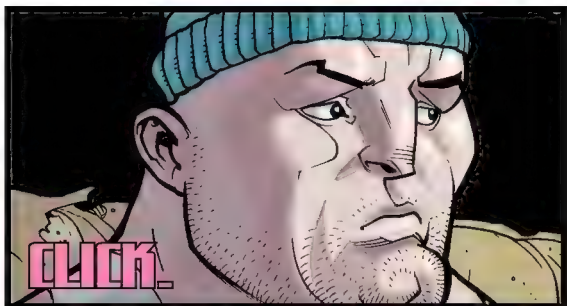










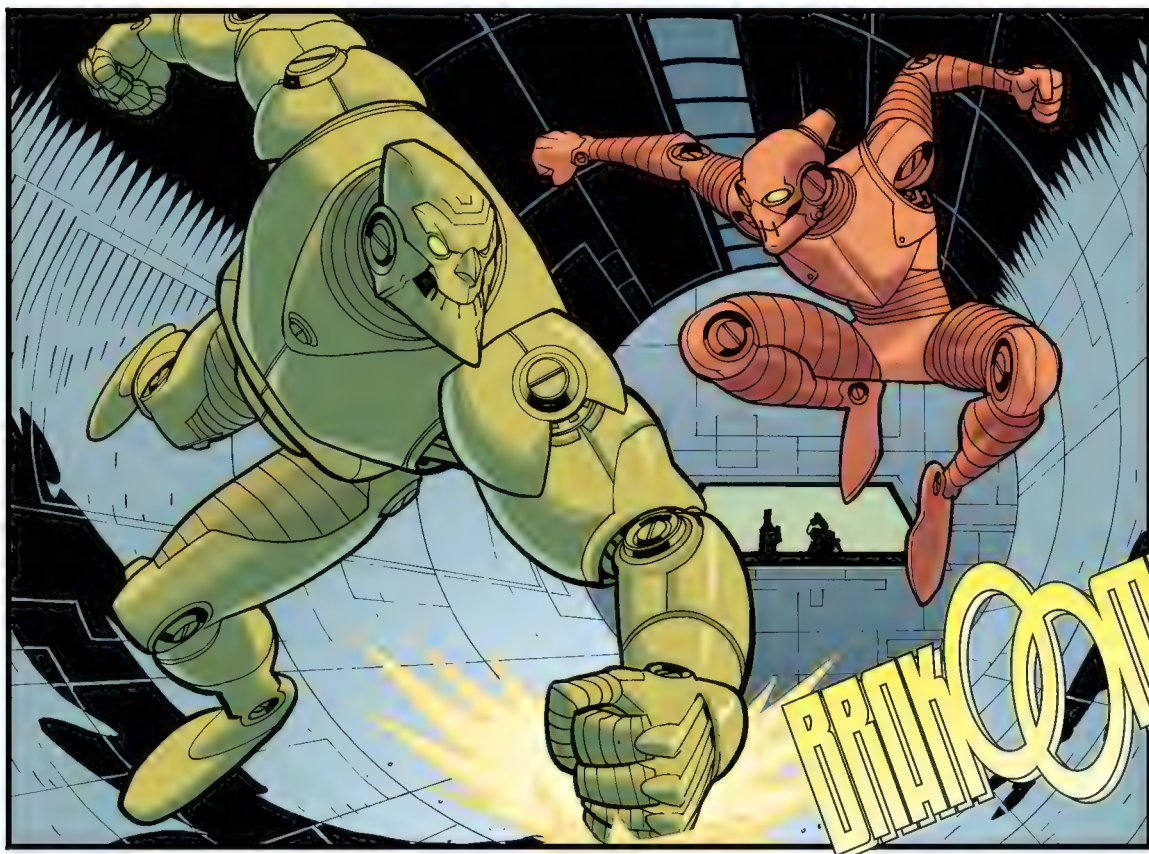
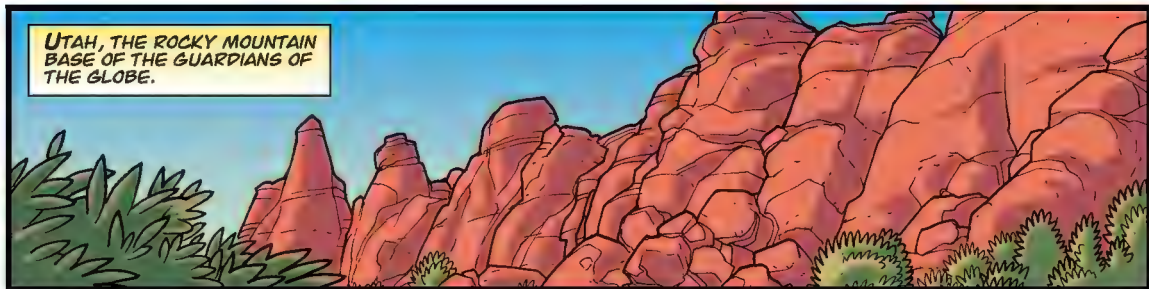


SOON.

BUT SOON... OKAY?

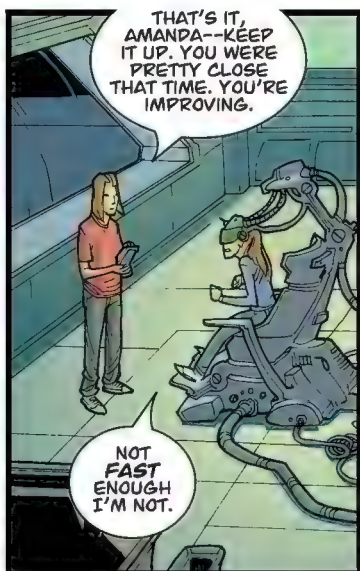


UTAH, THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN  
BASE OF THE GUARDIANS OF  
THE GLOBE.



THAT'S IT, AMANDA--KEEP  
IT UP. YOU WERE  
PRETTY CLOSE  
THAT TIME. YOU'RE  
IMPROVING.

NOT  
FAST  
ENOUGH  
I'M NOT.

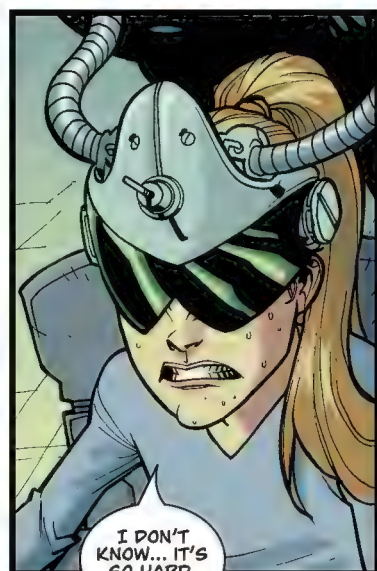


YOU JUST  
NEED TO  
CONCENTRATE  
MORE--  
FOCUS.

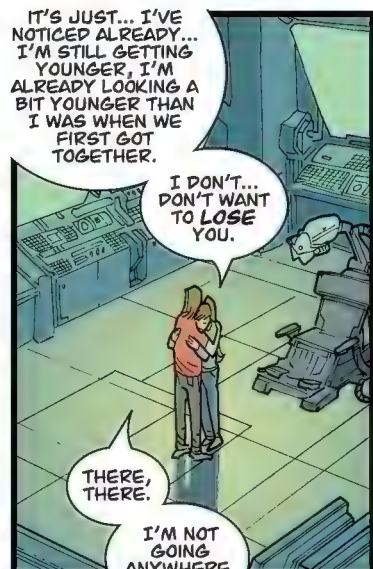
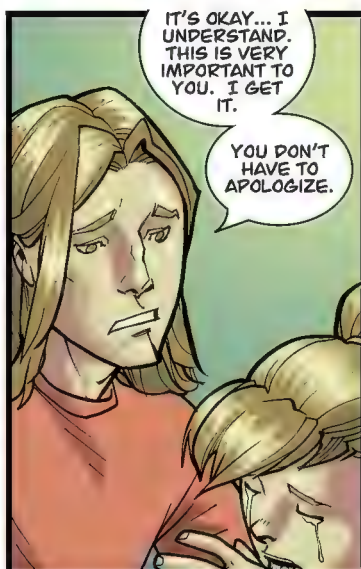
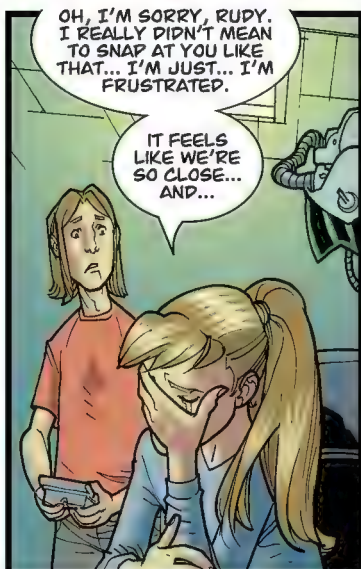
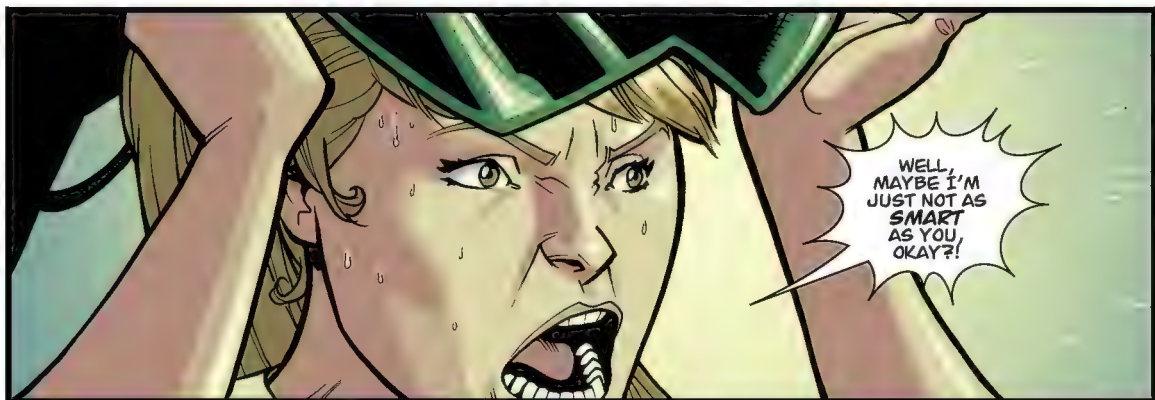
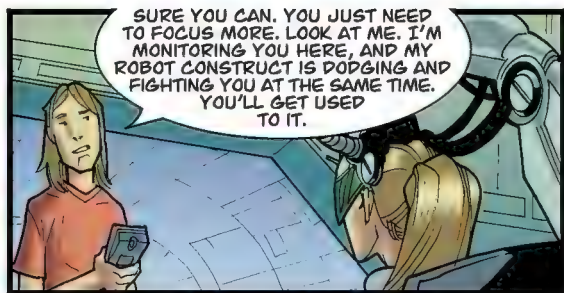
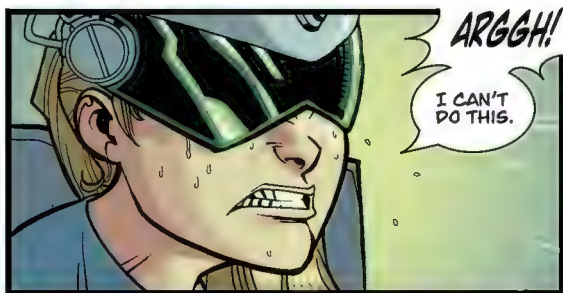
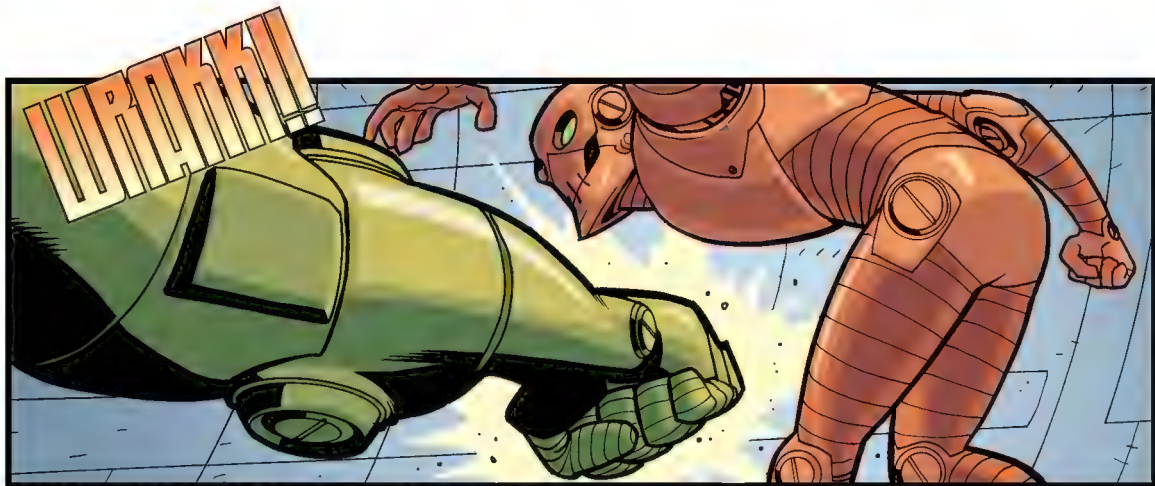
TRY TO  
BLOCK OUT  
EVERYTHING YOUR  
PHYSICAL BODY IS  
EXPERIENCING--  
AND FOCUS ON THE  
ROBOT, LIVE  
THROUGH IT.



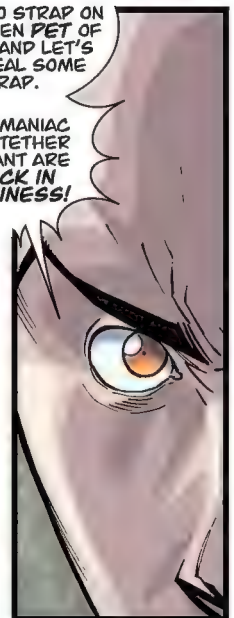
I DON'T  
KNOW... IT'S  
SO HARD.



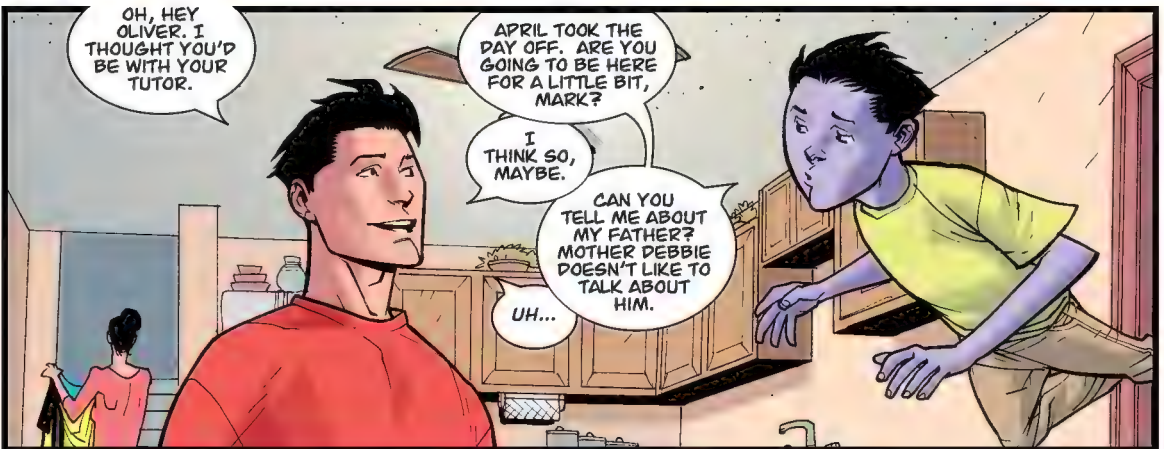
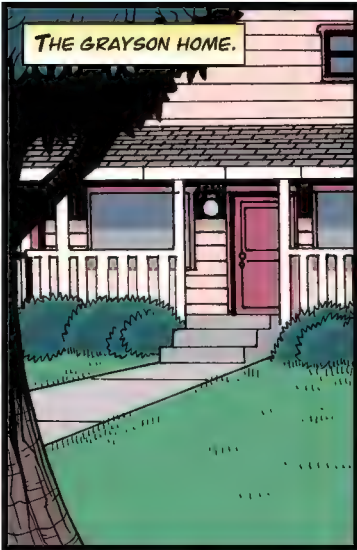




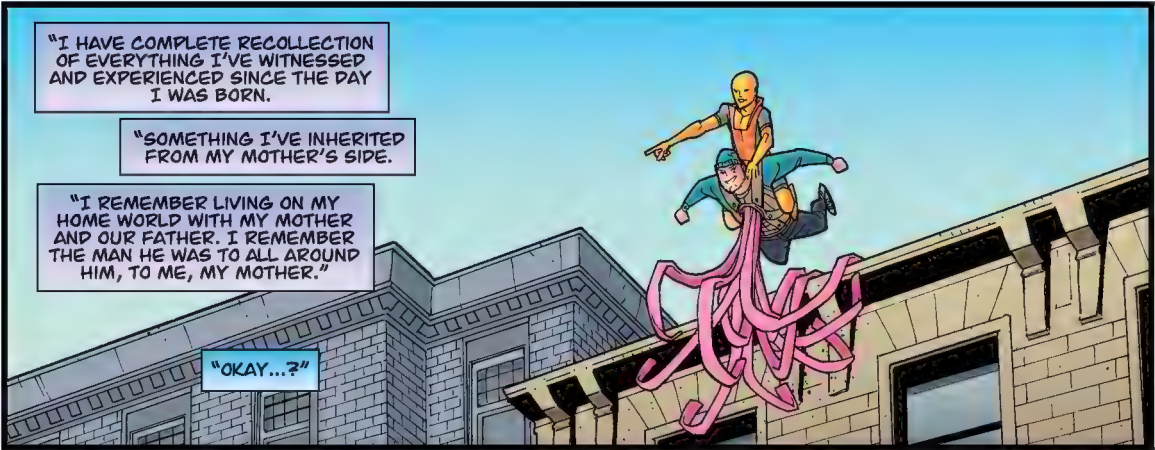










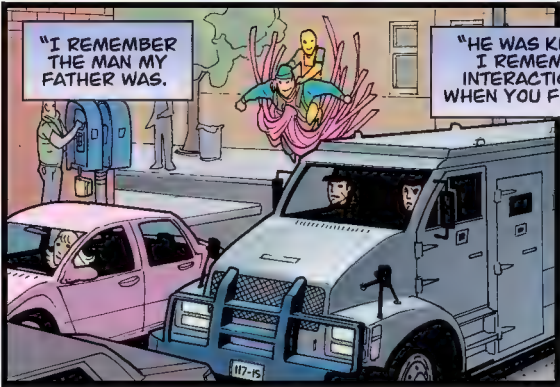


"I HAVE COMPLETE RECOLLECTION OF EVERYTHING I'VE WITNESSED AND EXPERIENCED SINCE THE DAY I WAS BORN.

"SOMETHING I'VE INHERITED FROM MY MOTHER'S SIDE.

"I REMEMBER LIVING ON MY HOME WORLD WITH MY MOTHER AND OUR FATHER. I REMEMBER THE MAN HE WAS TO ALL AROUND HIM, TO ME, MY MOTHER."

"OKAY...?"

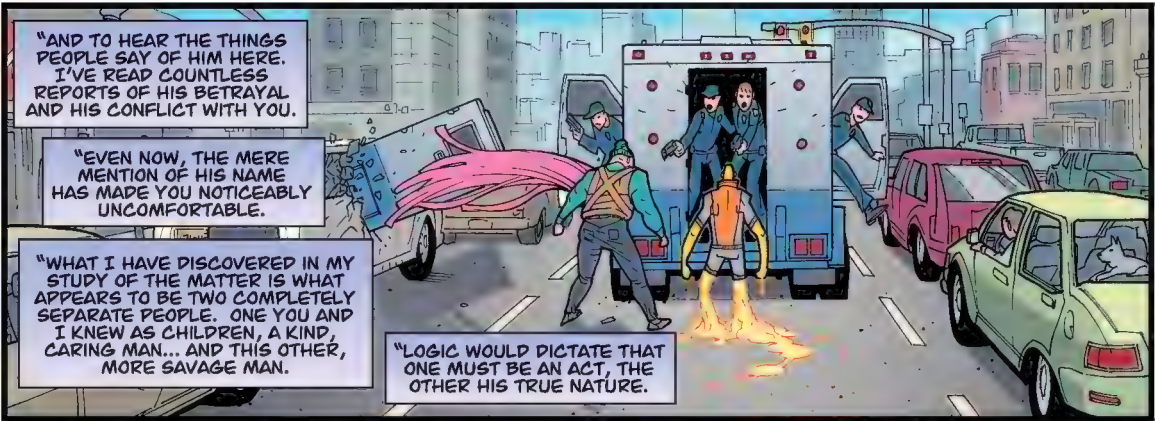


"I REMEMBER THE MAN MY FATHER WAS.

"HE WAS KIND, CARING, I REMEMBER YOUR INTERACTION WITH HIM WHEN YOU FIRST ARRIVED.



"I DO NOT RECALL EVER HAVING REASON TO FEAR THE MAN.



"AND TO HEAR THE THINGS PEOPLE SAY OF HIM HERE. I'VE READ COUNTLESS REPORTS OF HIS BETRAYAL AND HIS CONFLICT WITH YOU.

"EVEN NOW, THE MERE MENTION OF HIS NAME HAS MADE YOU NOTICEABLY UNCOMFORTABLE.

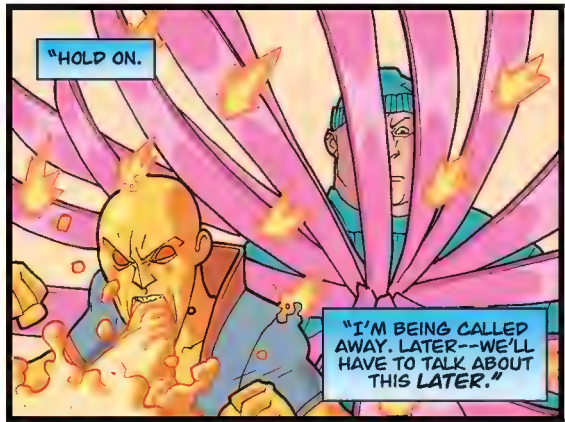
"WHAT I HAVE DISCOVERED IN MY STUDY OF THE MATTER IS WHAT APPEARS TO BE TWO COMPLETELY SEPARATE PEOPLE. ONE YOU AND I KNEW AS CHILDREN, A KIND, CARING MAN... AND THIS OTHER, MORE SAVAGE MAN.

"LOGIC WOULD DICTATE THAT ONE MUST BE AN ACT, THE OTHER HIS TRUE NATURE.



"WHICH ONE DO YOU THINK IS THE REAL VERSION OF OUR FATHER?"

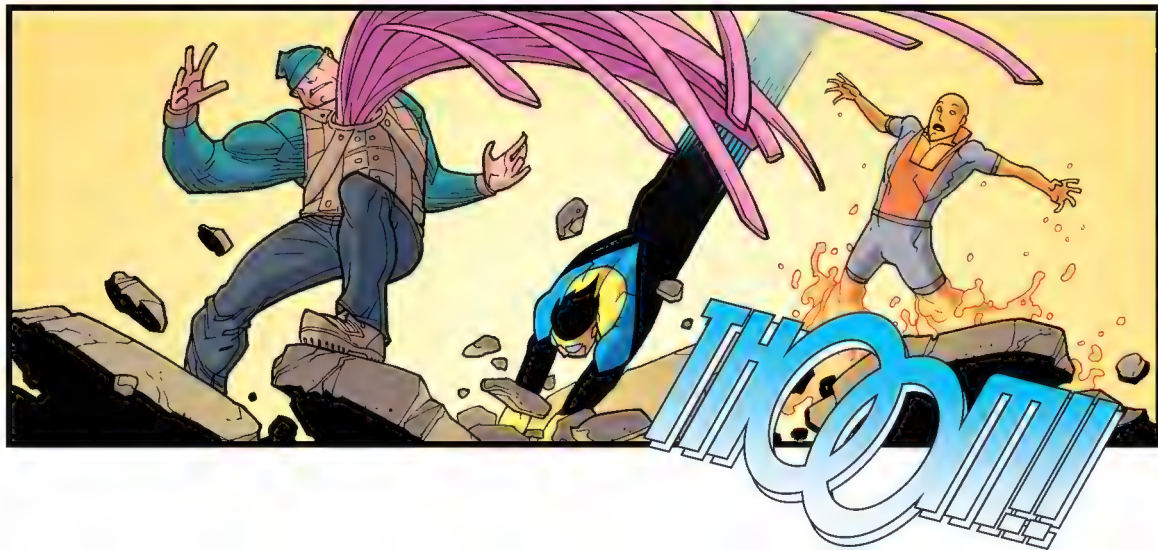
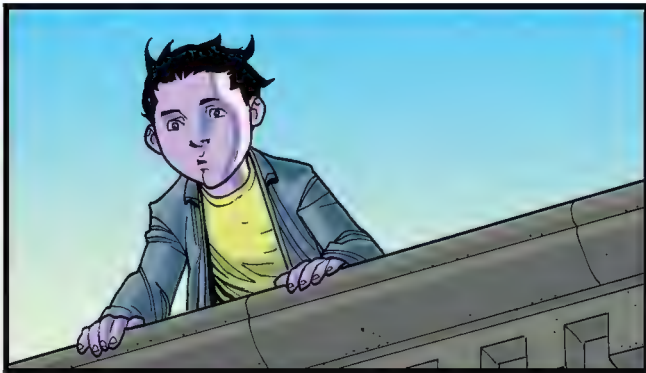
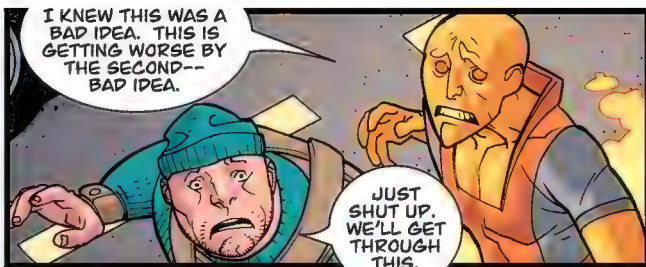
"OLIVER, REALLY, I--



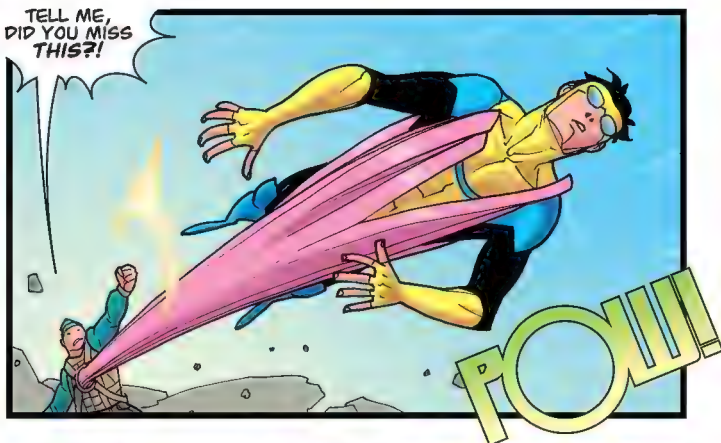
"HOLD ON.

"I'M BEING CALLED AWAY. LATER--WE'LL HAVE TO TALK ABOUT THIS LATER."

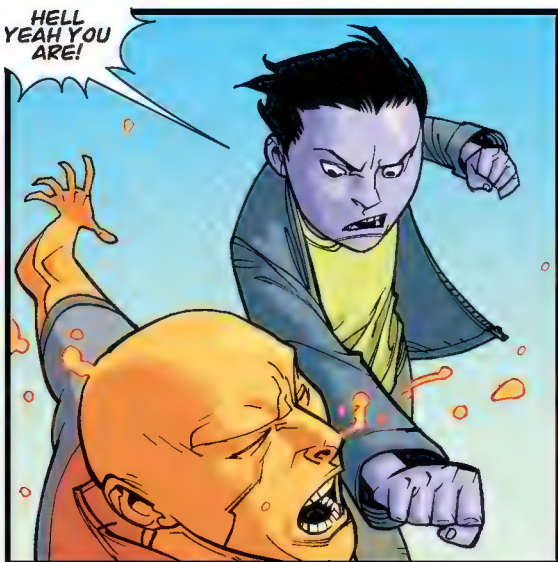




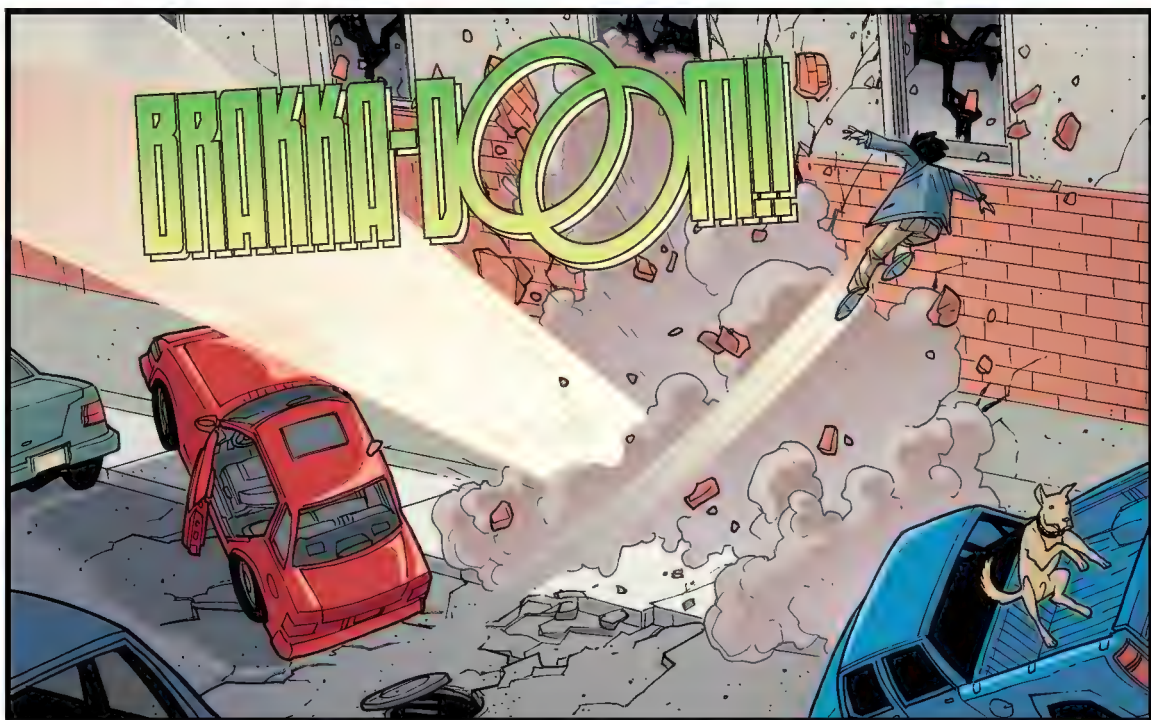




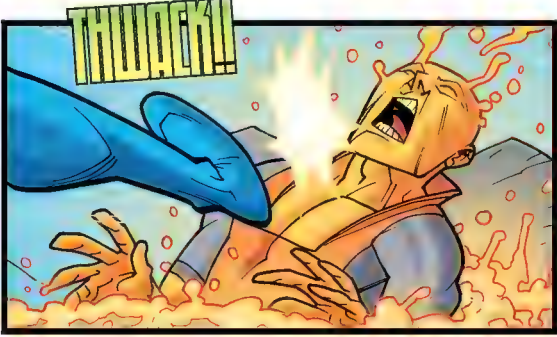




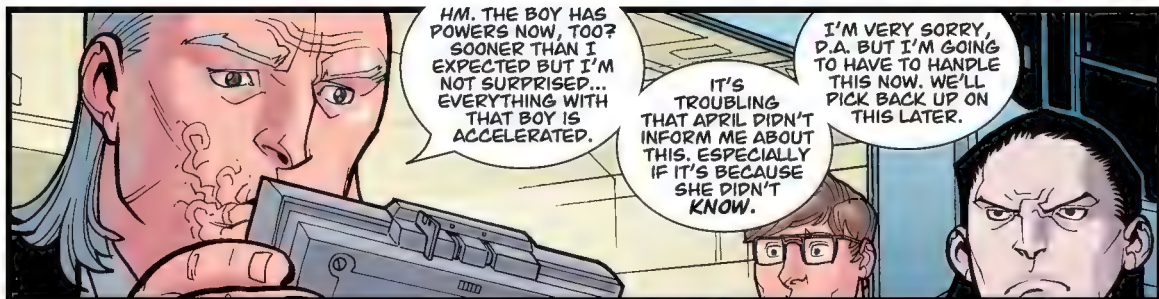
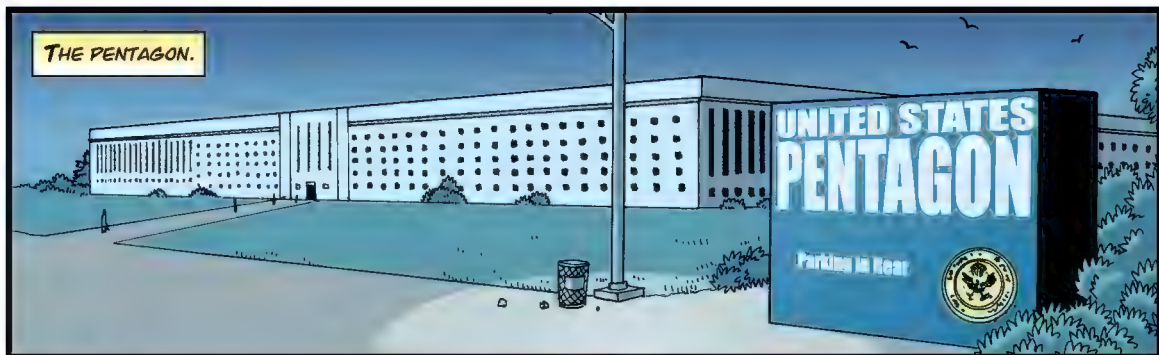




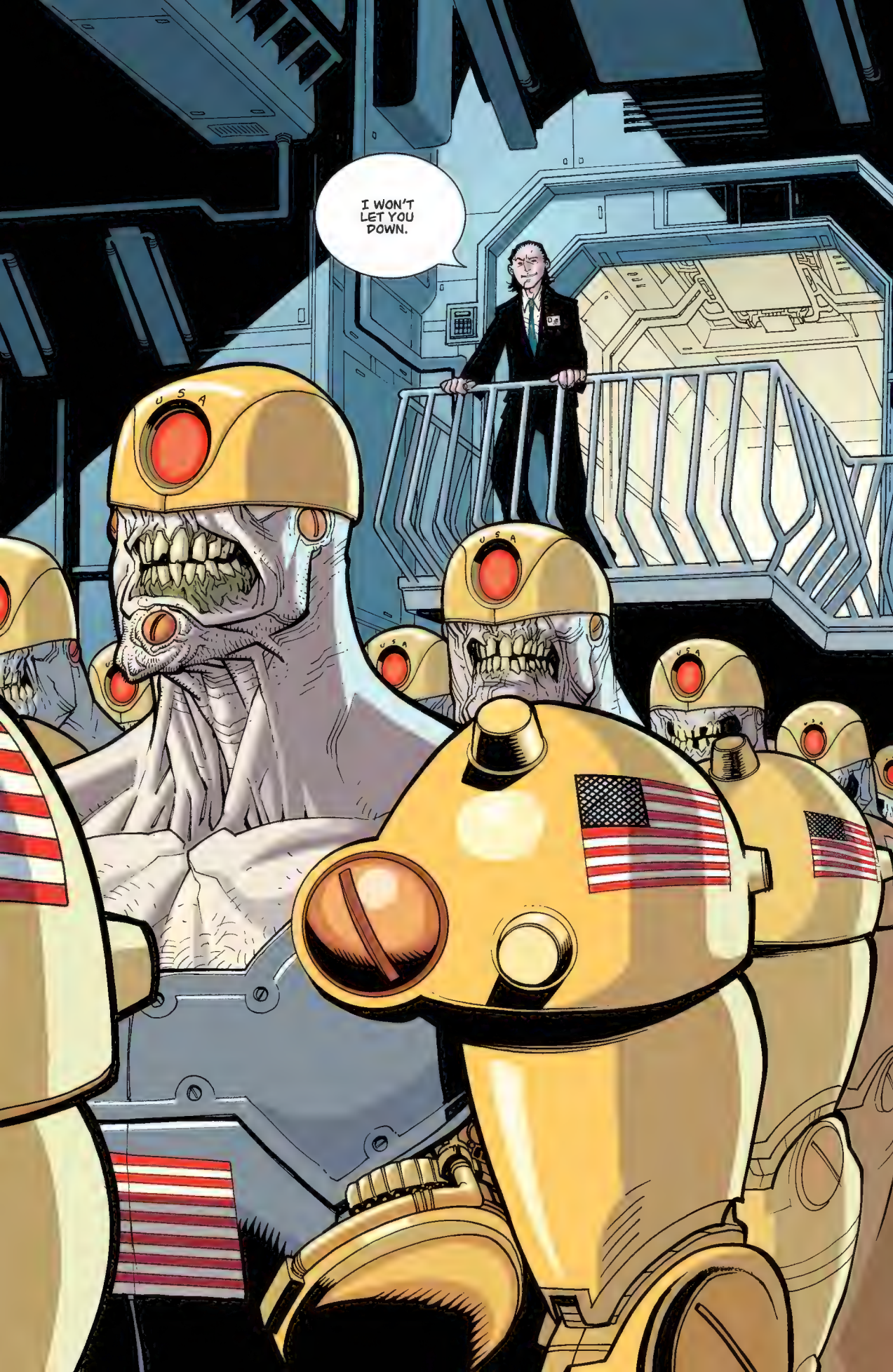












I WON'T  
LET YOU  
DOWN.



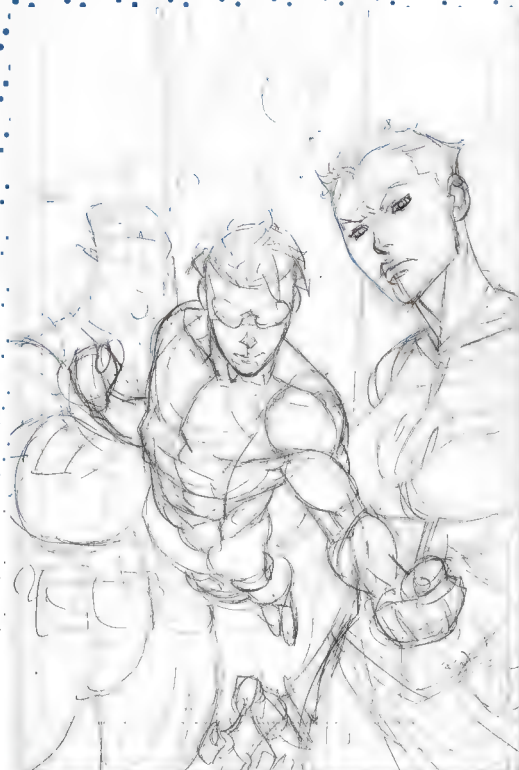




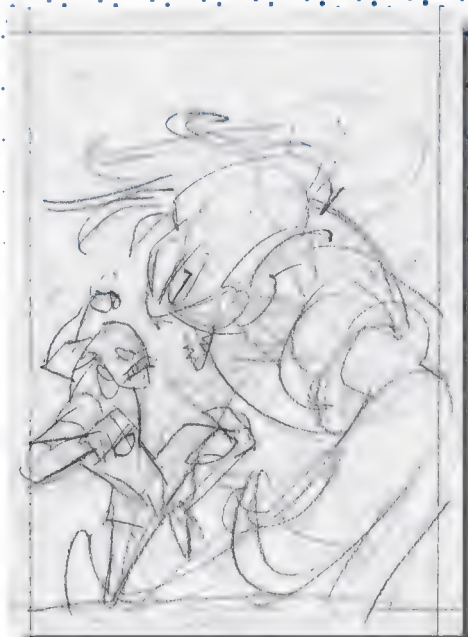
# SKETCHBOOK

**ROBERT KIRKMAN:** On this page you'll find Ryan's pencils and inks for the cover of this volume. I've got nothing to say about it other than "isn't it awesome." Ryan? Any stories?

**RYAN OTTLEY:** *Stories about drawing this cover? Heck yes I got stories! The funniest thing happened while drawing this cover. Man it was crazy.*







**KIRKMAN:** Here's the initial sketch for the cover to 42, featuring Octoboss — and the final sketch for the cover. Originally, I'd asked Ryan for a cool shot of Mark fighting Octoboss because I love that guy — and he appears in the issue. Then I came up with the idea of having the cover be a backgroundless figure with tons of copy.

**OTTLEY:** I was having the worst kind of artist block during this cover. I absolutely hated it. It's just a figure on a white background but this thing took me about 20 tries. And no we are not going to print my huge amount of failures. Some things are too embarrassing to show. I was definitely wishing we stuck to the first drawing with octoboss in there. I'm still not completely happy with the final drawing but I feel that way with a lot of my art when I look back on it.



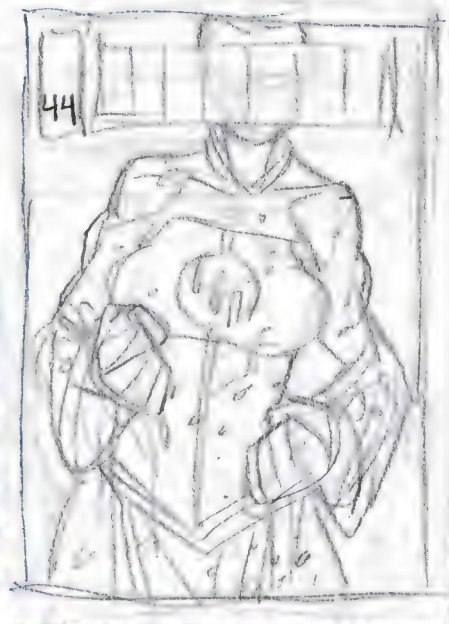




**KIRKMAN:** So, funny story. For the cover to 43, Ryan was on the phone asking me what happens in the issue and what we should do for the cover... and I said "I don't know — have Mark and Allen sitting on the moon talking." Because I thought that would be a cool image. After sending in the sketches that appear on this page, Ryan said "can't we have some action on this cover?" This resulted in Allen fighting Immortal on the cover — and it totally helped me shape the story into something cool. Collaboration, folks.

**OTTLEY:** Yeah the sketches for the cover show my sorry attempts at trying to make this situation interesting. Maybe there is an artist alive who can make two dudes sitting on the moon look cool but I ain't the guy. Pretty boring idea, Robert. I'm glad I bugged him for more ideas, I loved doing the Immortal and Allen upside down fight, which was all Robert's idea. I dug it!

**KIRKMAN:** Also on this page, the sketch and pencils for the cover of issue 44.

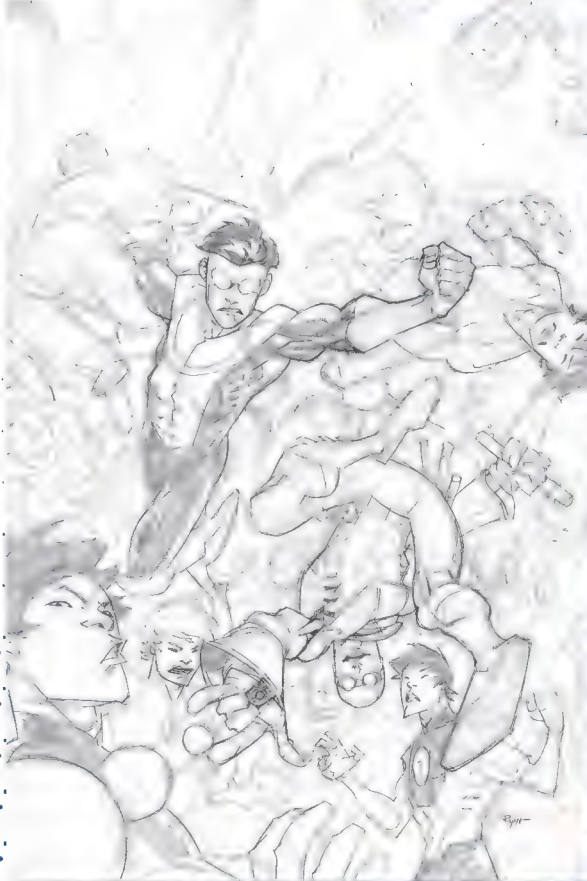
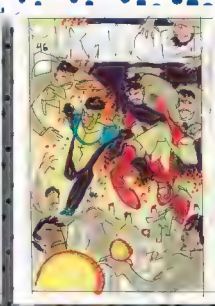
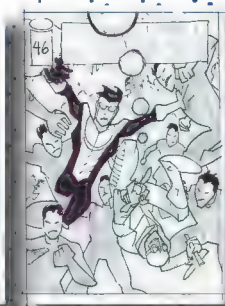




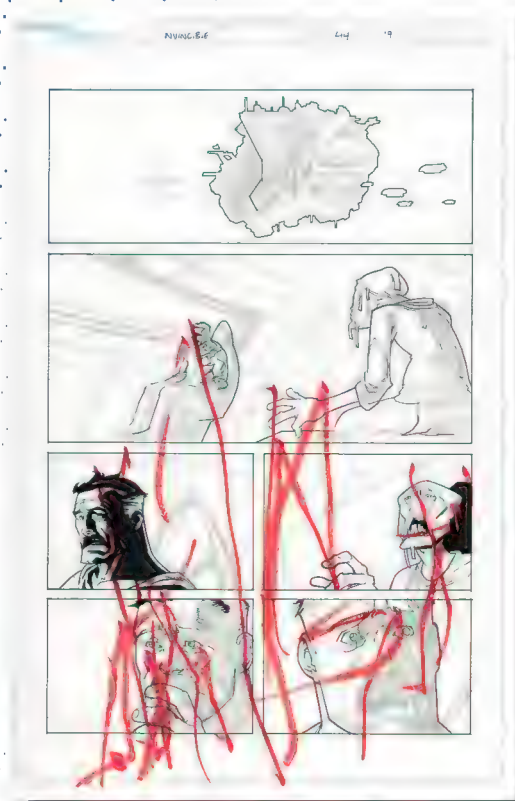


**KIRKMAN:** An unused sketch for the cover to issue 45... don't remember why we didn't go with this? Maybe because I didn't want to give away that Allen gets taken captive in this issue? I think that was it. Also, pencils for the cover to issues 46 and 47 and some sketches for the cover to 46. Rex looks awesome when he poses like... that.

**OTTLEY:** The 45 sketch was basically a spoiler, so Robert asked me to make Anissa and Allen fighting instead. The cover to 46 was a lot of fun. It's the first time I got to draw Rex Splode with his new robotic hand that fires little explosives. I actually called Robert and asked him if it was cool if I made Rex's hand look just like.....when someone says "I love you" in sign language. He thought that was a cool idea, we are both huge fans of love, so it seemed appropriate.







**KIRKMAN:** Pencils and inks for page 19 of issue 45...and also Ryan's son's first published work. Tell the story, Ryan! Tell the story!

**OTTLEY:** I work in an office away from home now, too many distractions and a kid that wants to draw on everything at home. There really isn't too much to the story. I had to run to the bathroom and i forgot to lock the door to my room. My son Quentin who is 2 years old, grabbed a red marker and went to town. I wasn't the proudest father when i saw his soon to be first published work but I got over it. Now I'm working on trying to get over him drawing with a permanent marker all over my computer chair and the neighbor's new couch. Not cool Quentin, but keep drawing.



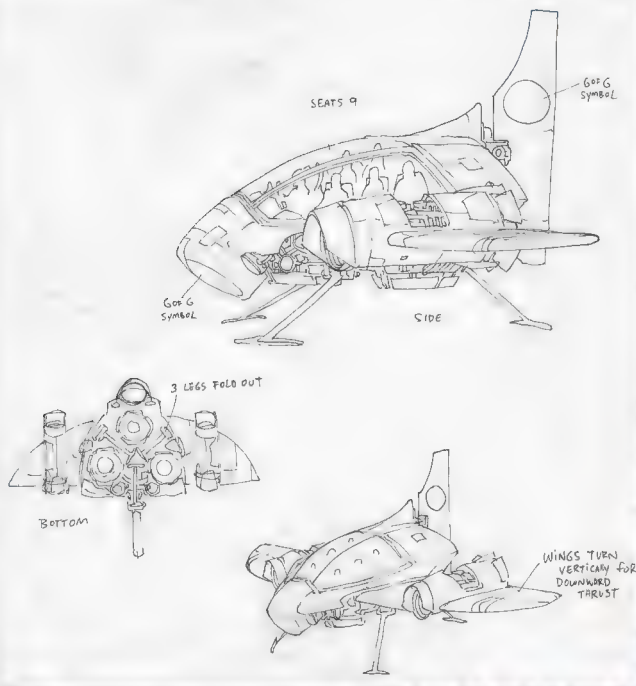
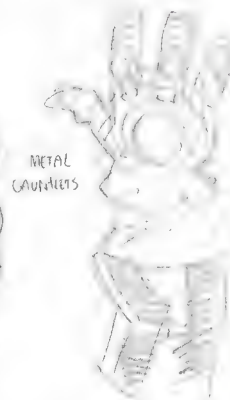
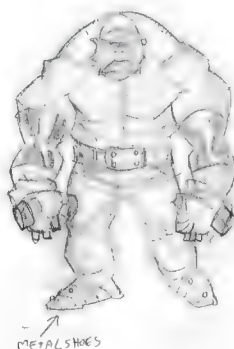


BIG OL'  
BRASS KNUCKLES

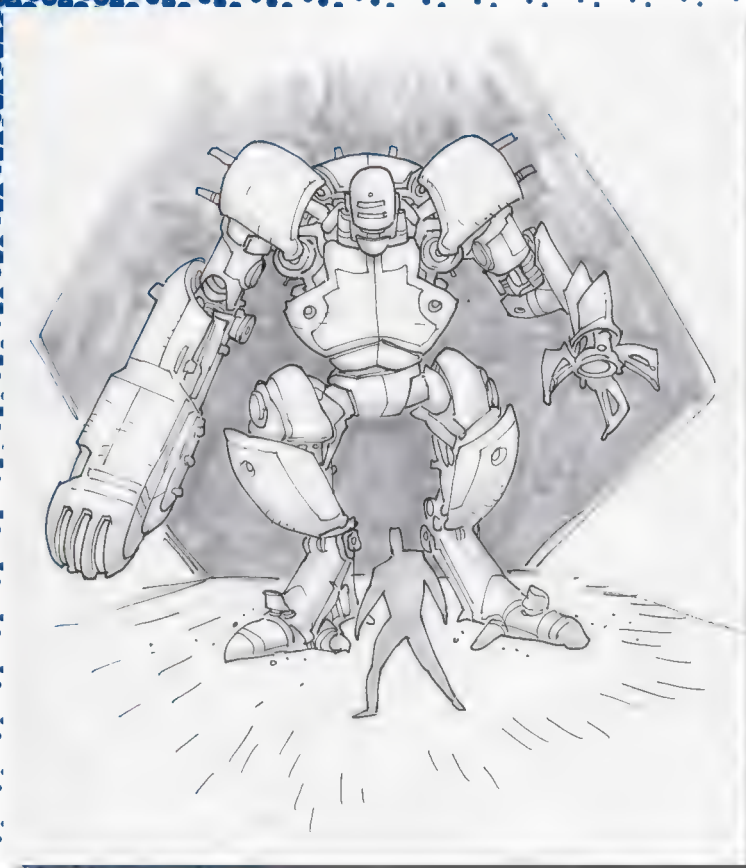


**KIRKMAN:** Ryan's first pass at "THE GIANT" which I deemed "not cool enough" and his final design which I deemed "totally awesome." Also on this page — a vehicle for The Guardians of the Globe. I thought it high time they got a cool ride — now I just need to show it again other than in issue 42.

**OTTLEY:** And I want to draw that ship again, I'll tweak it up a bit too. It'll look like their ship keeps getting parts upgraded but in reality it's just me trying to learn and make things look better. It all works out.







**KIRKMAN:** Ryan's robot design for issue 46. Also, the designs for Dropkick and Fightmaster--a cool duo we're bound to see more of eventually. I wanted them to look like a really feminine version of Eddy Vedder... just for fun. Ryan really nailed that look.

**OTTLEY:** They look nothing like Eddie Vedder. I suck. And the robot looks nothing like the robot that was drawn in 46. I sometimes change my designs when i draw them in the book because I feel the design needs a tweak OR I don't want to search for my designs in a stack of papers. That can't be considered lazy though, because work is work. So there.







← REDDISH BROWN



METAL

THICK  
LEATHER-LIKE  
MATERIAL



SAME COLOR  
GLOVES FOR  
BOTH  
CHARACTERS

**KIRKMAN:** Here's some color designs of Dropkick and Fightmaster as well as the designs for Nolan's prison garb.

**OTTLEY:** I'll do color designs more often. I love designing from start to finish, fun stuff. Can't wait to see more of Nolan!



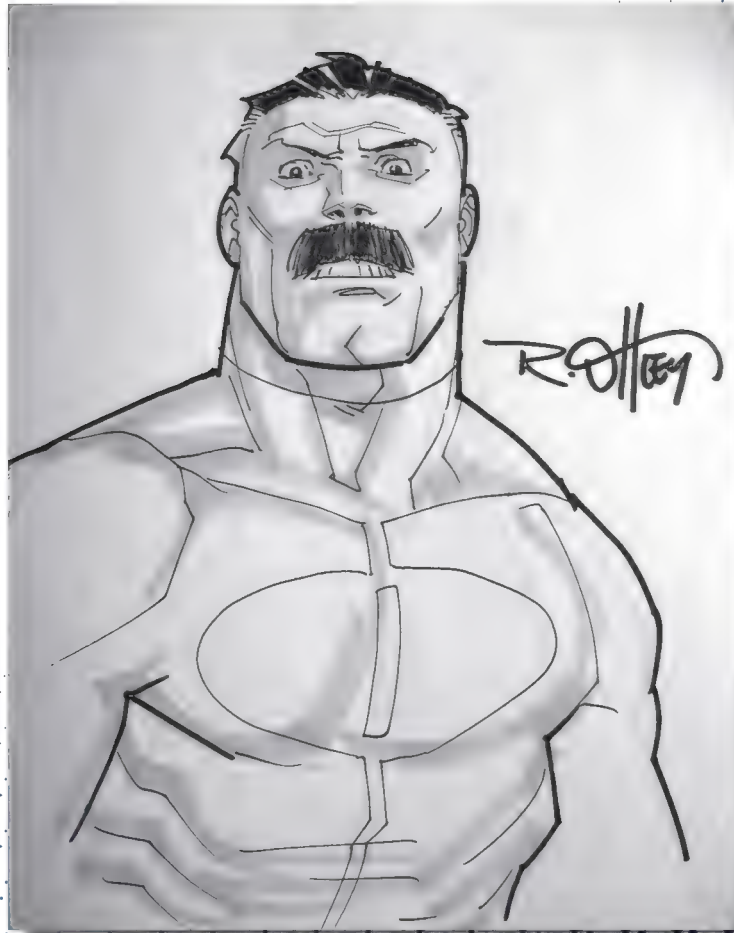


KIRKMAN: Awesome colored commission of Invincible. What was this done for, Ryan?

OTTLEY: You just answered your own question. It's a commission for a guy. Jeez Robert, get some sleep.

KIRKMAN: I can't, some jerk keeps asking me for more script!





KIRKMAN: Some sweet con-sketches by Ryan. Invincible with a mustache (which I think is becoming a popular request — Ryan?) and an Omni-Man with a mustache. I think I'm going to request an Omni-Man WITHOUT a mustache next time I see Ryan at a con.

OTTLEY: Hell, I'd draw him in a dress if it made you happy. I draw a few Invincible mustaches, along with an occasional Allen mustache at cons.





**KIRKMAN:** The Immortal as Abraham Lincoln, con sketch by Ryan. What an inspired suggestion from Cory Walker... I take no credit for the Lincoln/Immortal thing — brilliant. Also, Green Ghost by Ryan. Ryan does some of the best con sketches in the biz.

**OTTLEY:** Thanks Robert. A mustacheless Nolan in a dress is in the mail.

**KIRKMAN:** This better not just be a joke for the sketchbook section — I'll be checking my mail every day... looking for this drawing, specifically.

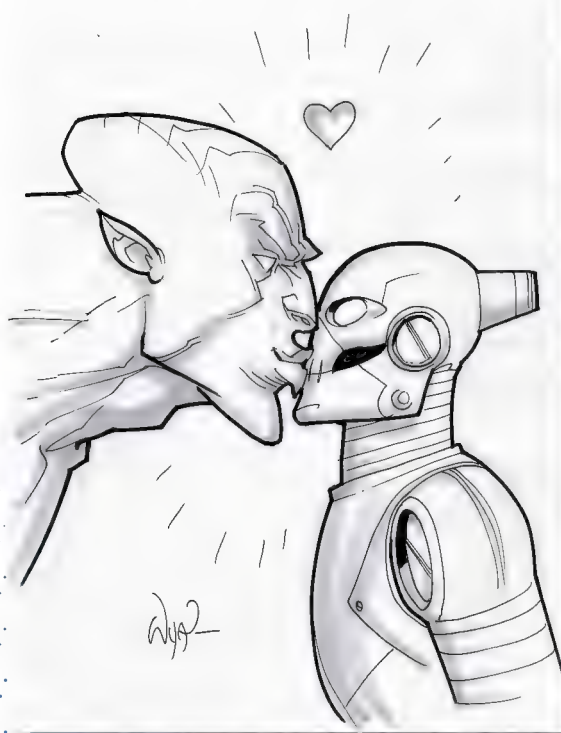






**KIRKMAN:** More con sketches. Komodo Dragon (R.I.P.), Science Dog, and Monster Girl and Robot in a scene I am now DYING to work into the book.

**OTTLEY:** Yeah I thought that Monster girl and Robot sketch idea was pure gold. I actually paid the guy who asked me to draw it because the idea was so good. Not really. I think I might've charged him double for drawing two head sketches in one. Also, I apologize to Cory Walker and all those people that I drew Science dog for, I had no reference to look at and I really haven't drawn him all that much so it wasn't a spot on rendition.







KIRKMAN: Con sketches of Allen... who is most people's favorite character in the book. I really should use him more.

OTTLEY: Yeah you should. Allen is the 3rd most requested character at cons. People are dying to know more about the whole Nolan/Allen space thing. We need another ALL Allen issue like issue 23. I loved that issue.

KIRKMAN: Very funny — you know another all-Allen issue is coming up very soon.

To RYAN —

R. Otley







**KIRKMAN:** And we'll leave you with three con sketches of Atom Eve... another fan-favorite. Ryan... you do a lot of these, huh? Interesting that they're all from the bust up. You ever thought about just doing a head sketch of her... just to see if the fan asks you to keep drawing until he gets what he's really after?

**OTTLEY:** HA! maybe I should charge more for breasts. Eve is the second character I draw the most at cons. Invincible is of course the first. I really don't mind though, so if you see me at a con go ahead and ask for whatever character you want, it's all fun for me. And the breasts are free, I just decided.

**KIRKMAN:** And we'll leave you with that, folks. Thanks for reading!

**OTTLEY:** Thanks everybody! See you later.





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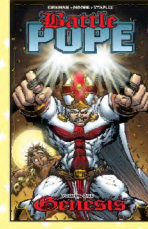
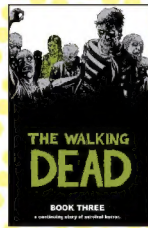
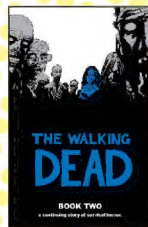
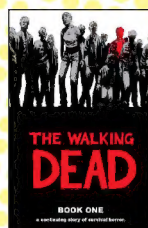
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**Another chapter in the life of Invincible! Allen the Alien comes to Earth for a visit, seeking details on Invincible's confrontation with his father. Anissa, an agent of the Viltrum Empire is also looking for answers, and she's not going to ask nicely. Tempers flare and fists fly as events are set in motion, leading to a future battle of cosmic proportions!**

**This volume collects issues 42-47 of the Eisner Nominated series.**

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